

Chad, Libya take dispute to court

NDJAMENA (AP) — Chad and Libya will bring their territorial dispute over the Aouzou Strip before the International Court of Justice, Chad's state-run radio reported Monday. Chad disclosed the action through its ambassador who serves as envoy to the 12-nation European Community as well as Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, the broadcast said. The International Court is in the Hague, Netherlands. The move was made according to an agreement worked out between Chadian President Hissene Habre and Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi last month, the radio said. Libyan troops continue to control the mineral-rich Aouzou Strip between the two countries, though Chad claims it as its own. An August 1989 peace agreement between Chad and Libya specified that the two parties could take their border dispute to the International Court if the problem were not resolved in one year through diplomatic efforts. Despite the peace treaty, Chad claims that Libyan-backed rebels based in Sudan continue to infiltrate eastern Chad.

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Air force jet crashes, pilot killed

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian air force jet crashed while on a routine training flight Monday, killing the pilot, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said. It did not identify the type of aircraft or say where the crash occurred. The agency named the dead pilot as Lieutenant Thabet Issa Attallah.

U.S. denies embassy move reports

AMMAN (J.T.) — The U.S. government has no plan to move its embassy in Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem, a statement issued by Jonathan Owen, U.S. embassy spokesman in Amman, said Monday. "We are aware of reports which say that the United States intends to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and has purchased land for construction," Owen said. "These reports are untrue. The United States has no intention of moving its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Its policy in this matter remains unchanged."

Iran and Iraq continue POW swap

NICOSIA (R) — Iran and Iraq exchanged another group of about 1,800 prisoners of war (POWs) Monday, Tehran radio reported. It said about 900 POWs from each side were released at Khosravi, the border point used for almost daily swaps which began Aug. 17. A total of about 44,000 POWs have so far been freed, nearly half the 100,000 estimated by United Nations officials to be in captivity.

Ben Bella to end exile Sept. 27

GENEVA (R) — Ahmad Ben Bella, Algeria's first president, will return home later this month after nine years in exile, a close associate said Monday. Mohamed Lejbjaoui, a leading member of Ben Bella's entourage, said the 71-year-old former leader would sail from Barcelona to Algiers and arrive Sept. 27.

Bhutto's husband anticipates arrest

KARACHI (AP) — Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's husband, anticipating arrest on corruption charges, Monday posted two million rupees (\$90,000) bail, a spokesman said. No charges have been filed against Asif Ali Zardari, 37, but the businessman has been the key target in corruption investigations of his wife's 20-month government.

Slad Barre names new government

MOGADISHU (AP) — President Mohammad Slad Barre, whose country is wracked by rebellions and banditry, Monday dismissed the six-month-old government of Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Samantar. The president gave no reason for the move announced on state radio. He asked Mohammad Hawadle Madar, a former cabinet minister, to form a new government. Samantar will stay on in a caretaker capacity until the new government is formed.

Fighters desert Aoun

BEIRUT (R) — Seven officers and 50 enlisted men deserted rebel General Michel Aoun's forces in Lebanon's rightist enclave over the weekend, security sources in west Beirut said Monday. The 57 deserters reported for duty with the army's other faction on the western side of the green line, the sources said.

Senators pledge to reward Egypt

ALEXANDRIA (AP) — Dozens of members of the U.S. Congress met for 90 minutes Monday with President Hosni Mubarak. A key senator praised Egypt's "brave and courageous" stand in sending troops to Saudi Arabia. The senators indicated they would reward Egypt by pushing for increased financial aid and for cancellation of its \$7 billion military debt to the United States. "Egypt is being totally cooperative," said Sen. Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island, the senior legislator in the 36-member congressional delegation.

King: War in Gulf will be devastating

King holds talks with W. German, French leaders and is briefed by U.N. chief on Amman meeting with Aziz

PARIS (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein said Monday that war in the Gulf would bring total devastation and he prayed that a conflict was not imminent. "Nobody can guarantee or even have a perspective of what the results (of war) would mean," he said after an hour of talks with French President Francois Mitterrand.

"It would be total devastation in the area and it could be disastrous for world peace," King Hussein arrived in Paris after visiting seven countries in 10 days to seek a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. He has toured five North African countries, Britain and West Germany and was due to go on to Italy Tuesday.

Diplomats said the King was pursuing a plan under which U.S. and allied Arab forces would

withdraw from Saudi Arabia at the same time as Iraqi forces withdrew from Kuwait.

They would be replaced by an Arab peace-keeping force and negotiations on a political solution would begin within six months.

King Hussein, who has given no details of his proposals, said his aim was "to hold the escalation" in order to create time for a peaceful solution.

Asked if he was disappointed by European reaction to his plan, he replied: "I'm not disappointed by any reaction. I will continue to do my best and I believe the results will be positive because reason and good sense must prevail."

He said he and Mitterrand had discussed the crisis with "candour and frankness."

French officials said Mitterrand told him that he had favoured an Arab solution and was disappointed that the Arab World was split and was not in a position to provide one.

France offered Jordan four million francs (\$750,300) in emergency aid for refugees pouring over the border from Iraq.

"We have a large problem in Jordan which no one seems to focus on, which is the human dimension of the tragedy and we need all the help we can get to feed thousands upon thousands," King Hussein said.

The King flew from London to Bonn early Monday and met West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Richard von Weizsaecker.

After the talks, the King told

journalists: "I hope we will arrive at a satisfactory solution soon."

King Hussein was responding at a photo-call with Kohl to a reporter who asked whether chances of war in the Gulf had increased, but the chancellor cut the session short and said there would be no more questions.

After his talks in Bonn, the King flew to Paris and held the closed meeting with Mitterrand. The talks dealt with the Gulf crisis and ways to find a diplomatic solution to it, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

King Hussein later met with Perez de Cuellar, briefed him on the outcome of his meeting with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz this week in Amman.

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Klibi resigns over Gulf crisis



Chadli Klibi

TUNIS (R) — Chadli Klibi, Tunisian secretary-general of the Arab League for more than 10 years, resigned Monday because of the Gulf crisis, Arab diplomatic sources said. They said Klibi, 64, was angry over criticism of him by the foreign ministers of Syria and Saudi Arabia at a league ministerial meeting in Cairo last week at which a majority of the 21 members hardened their stand against Iraq over its invasion of Kuwait.

The league, based in Tunis, announced that Klibi had sent messages informing Arab heads of state of his resignation.

But league officials refused to disclose his reasons.

Arab diplomatic sources said the Syrian and Saudi ministers accused Klibi in Cairo of not doing enough to get more Arab states to send troops to Saudi Arabia.

Since the Aug. 2 invasion of

Kuwait, only three league members — Egypt, Syria and Morocco — have sent contingents to Saudi Arabia alongside Western forces led by the United States.

The Iraqi News agency (INA), monitored in Nicosia, said the resignation was "a response to the immoral behaviour of the Egyptian regime at the recent Arab foreign ministers' meeting held in Cairo to undermine Arab unity."

Envoys from 13 league members attended the Cairo meeting but Iraq and seven other members of the league, including Tunisia, stayed away.

The conference passed resolutions reiterating the majority's condemnation of the invasion, demanding a withdrawal and seeking payment of compensation to Kuwait.

Diplomats saw the resolu-

tions as setting the seal on divisions in the Arab World and confirming a split over how to defuse tensions in the Gulf.

There was no immediate indication who would succeed Klibi, who took on the league's top job in 1979 after Egypt — where the organisation was based — was suspended for signing a separate treaty with Israel and the headquarters was moved to Tunis.

The secretary-general is appointed by the league council, grouping foreign ministers. His next regular session is scheduled for later this month. Klibi, a former Tunisian cabinet minister, succeeded Mahmoud Riad and was the first non-Egyptian to hold the top league job.

He won a third five-year mandate last year, and would

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Airlift of Westerners from Iraq slows down

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Airlift of Westerners from Iraq slowed down Monday after a weekend evacuation of 700 hostages and diplomatic efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis dribbled to a near-stall.

Iraq said Western women and children could only leave Iraq and Kuwait on Iraqi Airways, rather than foreign, airlines or overland to Jordan.

Baghdad's stand appeared to preclude, at least for the moment, an airlift of the 10,000 Westerners still in Iraq, some at strategic targets, to deter Western military action.

Britain said it was considering chartering Iraqi planes and buses to get foreigners out.

"We will consider any option," a Foreign Office spokesman said. "The use of Iraqi charters is

under discussion. If that is the only option, then we're prepared to look at it."

A convoy of buses taking about 500 women and children from Kuwait to Baghdad would leave Kuwait Tuesday, the government said. France and Australia had similar plans.

Iraqi Information Director Najji Al Hadithi said Sunday that no foreign airlines would be allowed into Iraq as long as Iraqi Airways flights to all destinations except Jordan were banned under United Nations sanctions against Baghdad.

Twenty-two Westerners flew into Jordan by air Monday and 120 Bulgarians arrived by road as Jordanian authorities struggled to cope with tens of thousands of other refugees, mostly Asians, already in the country.

In other developments:

— U.S. President George Bush, ending a 25-day holiday which drew fire for its timing, prepared to return to Washington Monday.

Until now, Bush's Gulf policy has enjoyed extraordinary support both within the United States and abroad.

But as the crisis drags into its second month, there are signs that his backing could begin to erode if tangible signs of progress towards a solution fail to emerge soon.

But no breakthrough of a weekend peace mission by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the return to Washington of both Bush and the U.S. Congress following their August breaks are certain to increase pressure on the president

to make diplomatic headway in the Middle East.

Following the talks between Perez de Cuellar and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, hopes for a peaceful settlement of the crisis will shift to Bush's meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Helsinki Sunday.

But Bush, asked by a reporter Saturday whether he saw Moscow playing the role of mediator in the crisis, said he did not. "I don't see a mediating role at all, and I don't think the Soviets see themselves having a mediating role," he said. "Nobody is doing any negotiating or anything of that nature."

— Japan asked its private industry Monday to help support

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Soviet Foreign Ministry adopts soft line

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Foreign Ministry Monday slapped down Moscow's generals for suggesting that the U.S. military build-up in the Gulf could dent improving East-West relations. Taking a soft line on the Pentagon's huge show of force, spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said U.S. forces had been deployed in Saudi Arabia at Riyadh's invitation only when Iraqi troops overran Kuwait.

Gerasimov was asked at a news conference about Warsaw Pact Commander-in-Chief General Vladimir Lobov's comments last Thursday that East-West talks to cut conventional weapons in Europe were threatened by the U.S. build-up.

"I did not say that and I cannot see a connection. The Vienna talks are about forces in Europe and I see no direct link," he said.

Lobov told a Soviet parliamentary committee that the concentration of U.S. forces could upset

the world military balance and complicate Moscow's problems in the volatile southern border republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Gerasimov also dismissed as one reporter's "personal opinion" a scathing commentary in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda suggesting U.S. armed action against Iraq would wreck détente.

"The Americans are there at the invitation of Saudi Arabia... their objective is to protect that country against possible aggression," he said.

"The Americans appeared there (in the Gulf) not on their own initiative, but they were provoked into it by Iraqi actions," he said.

Gerasimov's remarks on such a sensitive issue set a warm tone ahead of the Sept. 9 snap summit in Helsinki between Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President George Bush called to discuss the Gulf crisis.

Though the Kremlin has enjoyed influence over Iraq in the past because of its huge arms supplies to Baghdad, Gerasimov said Moscow was not likely to play a mediating role in the crisis while Iraqi forces remained in Kuwait.

"We are not playing the role of mediator and so far we are not being asked to play that role," he said.

Soviet weapons supplies were largely responsible for the build-up of the Iraqi army over the last three decades. But Moscow cut off its arms deliveries and denounced Iraq soon after it invaded Kuwait.

Gerasimov said the initiative for next Sunday's summit came from the American side. He said there was no set agenda.

"I wouldn't say this is a summit meeting. I would describe it as a working meeting," he said.

"The concept of urgent meetings at the highest level is an organic part of the new content of

U.S.-Soviet relations, built on a rejection of cold war stereotypes," he added.

The government daily Izvestia, in a front-page commentary on Monday, backed Bush's swift reaction to the Iraqi invasion.

"Bush had no other choice under the conditions offered by (Iraqi leader Saddam) Hussein, and his resolute action prevented two worse variants — an attack on Saudi Arabia and a possible Iraqi success."

"Besides, the speedy military build-up of U.S. forces and their allies created military pressure on the aggressor without which the effectiveness of economic and political pressure would be greatly diminished," wrote commentator Stanislav Kondrashov.

The newspaper suggested the Soviet Union had no moral basis to keep some 200 military advisers in Iraq and said Moscow's fear of jeopardising repayment of \$6 billion in Iraqi debt lay behind the reluctance to pull them out.

Thousands renew pledge to liberate Palestine

Amman rallies mark 1000th day of intifada

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Pan-Arab and leftist political groups successfully rekindled the spirit of the intifada Monday night as thousands marked 1,000 days of the revolt and paid homage to over 1,000 martyrs, 80,000 imprisoned, and 80,000 wounded by the Israeli occupation forces since it began.

In an emotion-charged atmosphere, over 10,000 people cheered leftist and pan-Arab leaders in marking the occasion at the Roman Amphitheatre in downtown Amman, making it the largest intifada rally in Jordan since the right of return march drew over 30,000 people last June.

An intifada rally organised by the newly founded Al Umma party drew a crowd of about 800 people on the other side of town at a college playground in the Wadi Seer district.

At both rallies, Israel, the United States and Britain were condemned for their role in "supporting and instigating oppressive, repressive and unjust policies in the region."

Thousands of mostly young people cheered and frequently interrupted the eight speakers who addressed the audience which filled the amphitheatre to the brim.

Palestinian, Jordanian and Iraqi flags were raised by the crowd. Posters of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat were also

Arafat: PLO must back side hostile to Israel

TUNIS (AP) — Yasser Arafat, addressing Palestinians on the 1,000th day of the uprising, said Monday that, in the Gulf crisis, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) could only side with the camp hostile to Israel, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

"To those who ask about the Palestinian position, we ask where Israel is in this war," Arafat was quoted as saying.

"We can only be in the camp hostile to Israel and its imperialist allies who have mobilised their sophisticated war machine, not to come to the aid of this or that party, but to protect their own interests."

The PLO has appeared to back Iraq in the growing crisis in the Gulf. PLO officials have said, however, that the organisation took no sides.

Arafat has made a separate effort to ease the crisis, with a peace plan. He said he was pursuing efforts to get the withdrawal of all forces from the region and their replacement by an Arab and U.N. force. The solution to the crisis must be in Arab framework which "would preserve the interests of all parties," he said.

"We are living a crucial moment in history, because the future of the Arab Nation is in danger," the PLO leader said.

He said the military build-up in the Gulf region "risks degenerating into total war the consequences of which will spare no one."

The Gulf crisis shows the duplicity of the United States and other Western nations, Arafat said, adding that Washington was not so eager to apply the standards of international law in Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory.

held aloft.

Speakers emphasised the importance of Arab unity in resolving the Palestinian problem.

"Like a cry for freedom, like a spark of light in a dark night, (Iraqi President) Saddam (Hussein) has given a new hope for the victory of the intifada for which over a

thousand martyrs have fallen on this one thousandth day of our glorious uprising," one speaker told the crowd.

For the first time since pro-Iraqi and anti-American and anti-Western rallies began a little less than a month ago in the aftermath of the American

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Jordan to continue supply of medicine, food to Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has informed the United Nations that it would continue to provide Iraq with pharmaceutical preparations, medical products and foodstuff for humanitarian purposes despite the Kingdom's compliance with Security Council Resolution 661.

In a memorandum sent by Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Kingdom said that it was complying with Resolution 661, which prevents the transport of goods imported for Iraq through Aqaba.

Jordan is imposing a ban on the exportation of all goods and products of Iraqi origin through the port of Aqaba, including petroleum and its derivatives. The Kingdom is temporarily allowing foodstuffs, which arrived by ship to Aqaba before Aug. 6, 1990, to cross its territory to Iraq in Jordanian and foreign trucks, the memorandum said.

It said Jordan will no longer issue permits for the exportation of goods and products of Jordanian origin to Iraq and Kuwait with the exception of pharmaceutical preparations, medical products and foodstuff and will no longer issue permits for the importation of goods and products of Iraqi origin to Jordan with the exception of certain petroleum derivatives.

Despite the imposition of a ban on Iraqi goods and products, the memorandum noted, Jordan will continue to import certain petroleum derivatives from Iraq, particularly heavy oil because of the lack of any immediate or foreseeable alternative and in view of Jordan's total dependence on it for the production of energy.

It said that the transfer of any funds to Iraq or Kuwait had been prohibited from Jordan which only permits the movement of individuals and their property.

Jordan, it added, will facilitate the travel of evacuees for humanitarian reasons.

Iraq bans return of evacuees who left Kuwait after Aug. 23

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Iraq is banning all those who left the country after Aug. 23, 1990, from returning regardless of their nationality or whether they were employed by the public or private sector.

An informed source told the Jordan Times that instructions had been sent to the border posts and that violators of the regulations had been turned away.

The source said those who left Iraq or Kathima (Kuwait) province before Aug. 23 should return as soon as possible or lose their jobs.

All teachers employed by

the public sectors should return now since all schools and universities opened classes on Sept. 1, 1990, the source said.

Those wishing to enter Iraq for business should produce documents to support their application for entry, according to the source.

The source called on all students in Iraqi and Kuwaiti universities to return to their institutions immediately carrying their identity cards.

According to the source, citizens from countries of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) do not require visa to enter Iraq.

Thousands of Jordanian students are enrolled at Iraqi universities.

Qatari government deporting Palestinians

By Wafa Amr
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said Monday that Qatar is expelling Palestinian workers, their families and officials of their organisation from the country.

The expulsions were prompted by the dissatisfaction of the Qatari government with Palestinian support for Iraq following its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, the PLO officials said, insisting on anonymity.

"Since Aug. 15, the Qatari government has been expelling Palestinians, including all Palestine national council members and Palestine embassy officials," said a PLO official.

He added that six members of the Palestine National Council (PNC) and their families, were given 48 hours to leave Qatar when they refused to stage a rally denouncing the Iraqi invasion.

"Some Palestinian journalists were also expelled from their jobs in Qatari newspapers," he said.

Ziyad Al Sayed, a Palestinian working in a business office in Qatar who was deported last week, told the AP that all Palestinians there were being harassed by both the

people and the government of Qatar.

"The PLO's pro-Iraq position angered the Qataris, so they hit back at the PLO by deporting us," Sayed said, adding that he was given 72 hours to leave the country.

Diplomats at the Palestine embassy in Amman said they have been receiving hundreds of complaints from Palestinians who have either been deported from Gulf states or were not allowed to return to their jobs there.

"We have hundreds of thousands of Palestinians working in the Gulf countries, and we expected a certain amount of trouble from those countries in response to our support for Iraq," the PLO official said.

Sayed said the three state-run Qatari newspapers are waging a fierce anti-Palestinian campaign, blaming them for the Iraqi seizure of Kuwait.

"We do not regret losing our jobs, we are used to living as refugees since 1948, and we support our leadership's stance," he added.

The PLO official said he hoped the economic problems faced by the Palestinians expelled from Gulf states would eventually be solved with Iraqi

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Iraqi officials voice resolve to stand firm

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq is putting a partial food rationing plan into effect, an official here said, adding that Iraqis would rather eat mud than bow to any foreign power.

Government spokesman Najji Al Hadithi said that countries honouring the United Nations trade embargo against Iraq were only hurting themselves, and that Iraq would never knuckle under to economic pressure.

"We have a war tested society. We have a war tested economy. So even if we eat mud, we will resist pressure and not kneel down to any foreign power," he said.

"Hadithi and Information and Culture Minister Latif Nasif Jasssem took a defiant stance in a meeting with reporters saying Iraq wanted peace, but was prepared for war."

Jasssem said Iraq, which fought an eight-year war with Iran, was

not afraid of war with the United States.

He said his country had 1.5 million men under arms and 5.5 million volunteers ready to fight.

"During the war with Iran, hundreds of American-made planes darkened our skies, and even our children used to throw rocks at these planes."

"Go if (President George) Bush wants to stay in power, he will pull out his soldiers and not make war," Jasssem said.

The information minister also said Bush had stage managed the crisis for his own financial gain.

"We have documents and information indicating Bush is a partner in some oil companies with the rulers of Saudi Arabia and even Kuwait," said Jasssem.

He said the crisis had driven the price of oil from \$17 a barrel to more than \$30, and predicted the price would rise to \$40 or \$50 a barrel.

"Who will be affected? all the poor countries," said Jasssem. "The United States, Japan and Europe will be hurt and the American taxpayer will be hurt as well."

Jasssem and Hadithi denied the U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait were hurting the country.

"Iraq reached self-sufficiency in vegetables and fruit during the war with Iran," said Hadithi. He said production of rice and wheat were up significantly, and that the government had taken steps to encourage farmers to put more land into cultivation, and to entice businessmen to take more interest in the countryside.

Hadithi denied there were any shortages, but said the government was instituting steps to reduce consumption.

Under a plan organised by the ruling Baath Party and local party officials, stores will limit the

quantity of certain products that can be sold at one time.

"If you need one kilogramme of rice, you will be allowed two but not 10. In the past you could get 20," Hadithi said.

The plan, he said, is a precaution prompted by the U.N. sanctions but not a response to any spot shortages.

"We are determined to live on our own cultivation," said Hadithi.

Two food store owners in Baghdad said they had been told the rationing plan would limit purchases of such items as rice, sugar, tea, cooking oil, baby food, detergent and soap.

One said he had been told the plan would begin on Sept. 5. Previous reports out of Baghdad said rationing was already underway. It was not clear if the plan was to take effect everywhere in the country on the same day.

"We really don't think about this. I'm not hoarding. Everything is here. We are not worried about it," said one shopper, who declined to give her name.

"We need only bread and water. We need no more than that. We can live for a long time," said Jasssem. "Dignity is more important than food."

Jasssem said Iraq was ready to talk, but that any negotiations had to focus on President Saddam Hussein's Aug. 12 statement that such talks also encompass elements of the Palestine and Lebanon problems.

The proposal has been rejected by Western leaders.

Both Jasssem and Hadithi stressed that Iraq wanted peace, but to reduce the tension it wanted a guarantee from America that it would not attack.

"We seek peace, but we are prepared for war," said Hadithi, who added that he believes Iraq

would win such a war because it has a legitimate cause that would cause the Arab masses to rise up in defence of Iraq.

"The United States has not behaved as a wise superpower, but as a cowboy, and cowboys cannot fight with Iraq," said Jasssem.

"Any plane that hits Iraq will be destroyed along with its pilot and crew, and the airbase that it came from will be destroyed and burned," said Jasssem.

Hadithi said that Iraq was hosting "thousands" of Britons and Americans at potential military targets in Iraq to make Americans think twice about attacking.

Less than three dozen American men are known to be held by Iraq, possibly at potential military targets. But more than 2,000 Americans are still unaccounted for in Kuwait, although most are thought to have gone into hiding.

Anglo-Iraqi war of words gets heated up

LONDON (AP) — "This man is a loser," said Margaret Thatcher of Saddam Hussein. "Old hag," the Iraqi News Agency blasted back.

The war of words between Iraq and Britain got a touch more personal Sunday, with the British prime minister blasting Saddam as a man who hides behind

Women's skirts, and the Iraqis hitting back at her "canine voice," spewing poison "like a spotted serpent."

In an interview aired on Britain's TV-AM Network, Thatcher called Saddam "a person who has taken hostages, cruelly, brutally, and a person who has hidden behind the skirts of women and children."

"This man is a loser," she said. "It is not for us to say what should happen to him within Iraq. That is for the people of Iraq who have suffered grievously through his eight-year war with Iran."

The Iraqi News Agency fired back: "The old hag Thatcher seems to have been upset by the permission given women and children to leave Iraq, as she had wanted to make an issue of them in her electoral campaign."

"Thatcher would do well to bear in mind that the empire on whose possessions the sun did not

go down has long been defunct, and neither she nor any of her allies will be able to set the clock back," it said.

It referred to "Thatcher's canine, harsh voice" and "empty bluster."

The newspaper Al Iraq called her a "circus buffoon who is dancing on American ropes... vomiting poison like a spotted serpent," waging an "imperialist-Zionist-colonialist-reactionary aggression against Iraq."

"Thatcher, the frenzied and corrupt lady, does not frighten the glorious Iraqi knights," Al Iraq editorialised.

Another official Iraqi paper accused Margaret Thatcher of recklessness and said she was trying to colonise the Arab World.

"Britain's black history, which is best represented today by reckless Thatcher, affirms that the premeditated evil intentions against Iraq are the same intentions that Britain had at the beginning of this century," the Defence Ministry newspaper Al Qadisiyah said Monday.

"America today is harbouring these intentions to impose a new colonialism on the Arab homeland in consultation with the dirty English maliciousness."

Ethiopians die waiting for visa to Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — More than 100 destitute Ethiopian Jews waiting in Addis Ababa for passage to Israel have died in the past month, Ethiopian immigrants said Monday.

Some 18,000 Ethiopian Jews, mostly refugees from the civil war, have assembled in the capital seeking visas to immigrate to Israel, according to Mesfin Ambaw, coordinator of the Ethiopian immigrant association.

"They are without food, housing and it is winter in Ethiopia. Children have died from lack of food and most of the people coming from Sudan have malaria," Ambaw said. "One hundred and twenty people have died in the past month."

He said the death toll was based on daily telephone contacts between Ethiopians in Israel and stranded relatives.

Abie Nathan, a peace campaigner jailed in the past for his meetings with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat, flew to Addis Ababa Sunday. The daily Maariv said he was likely to meet President Mengistu Haile Mariam.

Nathan was quoted by Maariv

as saying he wanted to check rumours about deaths among Ethiopian Jews, some of whom have been living in makeshift camps for months after leaving their small farm communities.

Nathan visited Ethiopia during a famine in 1984, carrying medical supplies and food.

In addition to the 18,000 Jews in Addis Ababa, Ambaw said there were three to four thousand others elsewhere in Ethiopia.

Some 12,000 Ethiopian Jews were brought to Israel in a secret 1984-85 airlift operation.

Several U.S. congressmen have said Ethiopia has slowed exit visas for Ethiopian Jews in an attempt to obtain weapons, including cluster bombs, from Israel.

Ethiopian Jews have demonstrated outside Israeli government offices to draw attention to the plight of those left behind.

Ethiopian community leaders accuse Israeli leaders of delaying the immigration to give priority to a massive wave of Soviet immigration and because they want to ensure the Ethiopians are done

India writes to U.N. with Gulf proposals

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral said he had written to United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar outlining a detailed plan to tackle the Gulf crisis.

"I have written to Perez de Cuellar and the permanent representatives in the Security Council representatives of the United Nations," Gujral said.

He gave no details of his proposals, which he said would be raised in the Belgrade next week when some members of the Non-Aligned Movement meet to discuss the crisis.

"Our approach would be placed for discussion there," he said. "I am sure some definite initiative would emerge from it."

Gujral said the prime consideration of India's policy in the Gulf was to ensure safety of its nationals stuck there.

"We will send food and medical aid, because we cannot see thousands of Indians starving there," he said.

Western diplomats said India would face serious opposition from the United States if it tried

to send anything to Iraq or Kuwait.

They said Washington, which has organised a heavy Western naval presence in the Gulf, insisted that U.N. sanctions against Iraq for its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait excluded that possibility.

"The Americans insist the sanctions mean nothing in, nothing out. The Indians would run into trouble with Washington if they try to send food or medicines," said one.

India said Saturday it would send ships and air force planes to evacuate Indians who wanted to leave Kuwait and Iraq.

During the interview, questioners criticised Gujral for what they said was an inadequate Indian response to the invasion.

"We have put our condemnation on record, but we have to choose our words carefully. I cannot get thousands of Indians there in trouble by using a few tough words," he said.

Gujral criticised Pakistan for sending its troops to Saudi Arabia to join Western forces who say they are defending the country from an Iraqi threat.

"The military-backed Pakistan regime is bound to believe in military solutions. So they send troops to divide Arabs and kill other Muslims," he said.

Bangladeshis protest against Gulf force

DHAKA (AP) — At least 50 people were injured when police used steel-tipped batons Monday against demonstrators protesting the dispatch of Bangladesh troops to the Gulf.

The United News of Bangladesh reported that the injured included six policemen.

The melee came during an eight-hour general strike which closed shops and halted traffic in the capital of this predominantly Muslim country. The protest was called by 13 opposition political parties.

Police clashed with protesters who hurled bricks and tried to stop cycle rickshaws, the only public conveyances defying the strike. Police said 30 people were detained.

Bangladeshis soldiers are expected to leave for Saudi Arabia this week to join the U.S.-led multinational force. The size of the contingent has not been officially disclosed, but sources put it at 1,200.

Demonstrators shouted, "No Bangladeshis troops to the Gulf" and "withdraw foreign troops from the Gulf."

"We are opposed to occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, and also to the deployment of U.S. troops," said Sheikh Hasina, leader of the Awami League. She said the Bangladesh government was contributing troops to the Gulf to "please the imperialists."

The usually chaotic traffic was absent from Dhaka, a city of seven million people, as early morning rains contributed to the disruption of normal routines.

Buses and cars, under threat of stoning, stayed off the roads, but tricycle rickshaws moved through the back streets. Government offices and banks opened, but business in the early hours was thin. Police equipped with riot gear were posted at key points, including the central secretariat, seat of the government ministers.

Suranjit Sen Gupta, an opposition leader, said the strike also was effective in eight other major towns, including the port cities of Chittagong and Khulna.

Khaleda Zia of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, another opposition group, also criticised the government for the troops dispatch decision, did not support the strike.

It was unclear if how much popular support the strike had. "Many close their shops because of fear of violence and looting," said a Dhaka university teacher, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Officials said more than 30,000 Bangladeshis were stranded along Iraq's border, while 10,000 escaped to Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Turkey. More than 3,000 Bangladeshis have so far been evacuated from Riyadh and Amman.

Gulf states ponder conscription

By Nadim Kawash
Reuters

ABU DHABI — Alarmed by Iraq's blitzkrieg victory over Kuwait's army a month ago, Gulf Arab states may start conscription to help boost their defences, Arab diplomats and officials say.

But according to a top Muslim theologian, the men of the Gulf need to turn their thoughts from a life of pleasure to one of sacrifice on the battlefield.

"The latest Gulf crisis has shown we need good men who can stand up on the battlefield. How can we stand against aggression if we carry a gun but keep thinking about the next holiday in Bangkok," said religious leader Sheikh Ahmad Qattan.

The Gulf states have plenty of money with which to buy weapons but the invasion of Kuwait has shown they need more men to use them.

"We have to realise that money and a strong economy mean nothing if we do not have the ability to protect them," a United Arab Emi-

rates military source said Sunday.

Kuwait was the only one of the six oil-rich Gulf states that has a conscription programme.

The UAE, Bahrain, Oman, and Qatar all have volunteer armies. Saudi Arabia considered conscription five years ago but dropped the idea, Arab diplomats said.

Kuwait's army of around 20,000 men, though bristling with U.S. Western European and some Soviet weapons, was crushed in hours by Iraq's 100,000-strong force Aug. 2. Baghdad's army is a regional leviathan one million-strong, mostly conscripts built around a regular core. For years before the invasion Moscow was its chief armorer.

The GCC's combined forces total only around 17,000, according to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

The group's total population is just 12 million, against 18 million Iraqis.

The GCC has the money to

boost defence spending quickly, while Iraq's debt-ridden economy was in poor shape before the invasion and is now threatened with collapse by U.N. sanctions.

Popular sentiment in GCC states is bitterly against Iraq. Qattan, who has called for holy war against Iraq, said in a lecture in the UAE: "Our leaders should forget about cables of solidarity from abroad, forget about popular enthusiasm and military parades, and concentrate on military training to make real men."

A Gulf Arab diplomat said: "The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has served a lesson to Gulf states that they are not secure. I expect the first thing they will do is upgrade their defence in both equipment and men."

The need is for more men on the ground, Gulf military experts said.

Saudi Arabia, the biggest GCC state, has an army of around 65,000 men and invited Western and Arab forces in to defend it.

The other GCC states now

have extra Western forces to help defend them — U.S. fighter jets in Qatar, British warplanes in Qatar and French paratroopers in the UAE are examples.

"The Saudis would be no match for Iraq's flood of men and tanks. They could hold out longer than Kuwait but there is no chance they could repel an offensive," said Abdul Reda Assiri, former political science professor at Kuwait University.

More than 100,000 American troops are already in or on their way to Saudi Arabia as well as soldiers sent by Egypt, Syria, Bangladesh, Morocco and Pakistan.

"I think this crisis will make them (the Saudis) realise the danger of complacency in the military field," said Assiri.

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait has stimulated a dramatic popular response to calls for national defence.

Both the UAE and Saudi Arabia have asked for volunteers for military training. "The rush by our youth was beyond our expectations," said the UAE military official.

Iraqi paper describes Sultan as slave to U.S.

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Baghdad Monday called Saudi Arabia's defence minister a slave to the United States and dismissed his pledge not to let American forces invade Iraq from Saudi territory.

Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz said Saturday that U.S. forces based in the kingdom would not be allowed to invade to rescue U.S. hostages or drive Iraq out of Kuwait.

Iraq's official Al Thawra (the revolution) accused King Fahd of opening up Saudi Arabia "to the American forces of occupation and invasion."

"Such an occupation and aggression is an American decision taken by the U.S. administration. It is the Pentagon not the slave Sultan that decides the tasks of these forces," said the paper, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency

(INA).

"And whether the rule of the betrayer of the two holy mosques admits or denies this, the party that defines the objectives of the U.S. military presence in Najd and Hejaz (Saudi Arabia) is the American party."

Al Thawra said American forces, in collaboration with Saudi Arabia, sought to control oil sources and threaten Iraq "so as to deprive the Arabs of their capability and bastion."

It said Iraq would bring disaster on the heads of any invading force and their supporters. "The bitter harvest of the betrayal and invasion has begun."

Iraq has condemned Saudi Arabia for inviting foreign forces into the kingdom, where the Muslim world's holiest sites are located.

16 Israeli soldiers wounded in jump

TEL AVIV (R) — Sixteen Israeli reservists were injured in a parachute jump during an army exercise, military sources said Monday.

The reservists, most slightly hurt, were training in southern Israel Sunday. They were taken by helicopter to hospital. The cause of the accident was unclear but the daily Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper said the jump was made at sunset in poor visibility.

Sheik Ali appreciates Japan's aid

TOKYO (R) — The finance minister of Kuwait's toppled government thanked Japan Monday for its aid to international forces in the Gulf and to countries hit by the blockade of Iraq.

Japanese officials said, "We really appreciate what Japan has done so far and what Japan might do in the future to help force Iraq to withdraw from our homeland." Sheik Ali Khalifa Al Sabah was quoted as telling Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama. The Kuwaiti minister, travelling as an envoy of the emir of Kuwait, met senior officials, including Nakayama and minister of International Trade and Industry (MITI) Kabuo Muto, and business leaders.

PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON PROTEST

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — Thousands of Palestinian refugees demonstrated in South Lebanon Monday against American intervention in the Gulf. Witnesses said some 10,000 people, including armed guerrillas, women and children, gathered in 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp east of the port city of Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut. They carried placards denouncing the United States for sending troops to the Gulf. They also supported the 35-month-old Palestinian uprising. The demonstration was called by the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
15:50 News Summary
16:10 Local programme
16:45 Programme review
16:50 News in Arabic
16:55 Arabic series
17:10 Programme review
17:15 Local programme
17:30 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:15 Documentary
18:30 Des chaires et de lettres
19:00 News in French
19:15 Around Hui on Jordan
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Golden Gorb
21:10 End of Empire
22:00 News in English
22:30 Martin Luther King

PRAYER TIMES

06:47 Fajr
07:07 Sunrise
12:35 Dhuhr
16:10 Asr
19:02 Maghreb
20:22 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweithel Tel. 810740.

Assembly of God Church, Tel. 63278, 68526.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62490.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

Dr. de Sale Church Tel. 66177.
Terrence Church Tel. 62366.
Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775251.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 813817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northerly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Salim Khayyat 791890
Dr. Saleh Zayed 790677
Dr. Yousef Rashed 896361
Dr. Abdul Qader Al Lala 696489
Fire pharmacy 661732
Ferdous pharmacy 708736
Al Asema pharmacy 637253
Nairovki pharmacy 626672
Al Salam pharmacy 646745
Yacoub pharmacy 646745
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

AMMAN: Min. voc. temp.

Amman 18 / 36
Aqaba 24 / 37
Dera 16 / 35
Jordan Valley 22 / 36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 27. Humidity readings: Amman 41 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 192, 621111, 637777
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Road Bank 791121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 846390
Public Security Department 630321
Police Complaints 058800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 121
(Directory assistance)
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Report 861101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 660100

ZARQA:

Dr. Yasser Al Tari (—)
Khalid pharmacy 985417

HAZRA:

Dr. Yasser Al Tari (—)
Khalid pharmacy 985417

HAZRA:

Dr. Yasser Al Tari (—)
Khalid pharmacy 985417

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Dr. Yasser Al Tari (—)
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Khalid pharmacy 985417

HAZRA:

Dr. Yasser Al Tari (—)
Khalid pharmacy 985417

HAZRA:

France sends medical aid

AMMAN (J.T.) — In response to Jordan's repeated appeals to world organisations to help the Kingdom deal with the influx of expatriates fleeing Kuwait, a number of physicians, representing a Paris based health organisation, arrived in Amman Monday to contribute to the Ministry of Health's services to the evacuees.

The doctors, all from Paris, came carrying with them 1,648 kilograms of medicines and medical equipment, operation equipment and various other essential requirements to deal with emergency cases.

The organisations also announced a contribution of one tonne of rice, 10 tonnes of flour for the evacuees who are being housed at the Andalus collection centre.

Coinciding with the arrival of the French doctors, the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) announced Monday that it was setting up two relief camps for the evacuees in Azraq north east of Amman.

JNRCS President Ahmad Abu Qoura said that the two camps would be set up in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and that they will be offering medical services, and foodstuffs to the evacuees.

Abu Qoura said the ICRC was now offering health services at the Shaalan One camp near the

Jordanian Iraqi border. Meanwhile the United Nations Disaster and Relief Organisation (UNDRP) announced here Monday that it had set up a bridge linking Jordan with the home countries of the evacuees who fled Kuwait to Jordan after Iraq's takeover of the Gulf state on Aug. 2.

UNDRP Director General Mohammad Al Assafi told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the organisation had chartered one of the Royal Jordanian (RJ) planes to transport the evacuees to Bangladesh and chartered another plane to transport food supplies from other countries to Jordan.

UNDRP, he said, will pursue efforts to ensure the transportation of the rest of the evacuees from Jordan to their home countries.

Assafi said that the total number of evacuees in Jordan by noon Monday was 87,000 of whom 57,000 are housed at camps in the Ruweished area.

Assafi said that his office was coordinating efforts with foreign embassies to ensure the arrival of relief supplies to the evacuees. Established in 1972, UNDRP is entrusted with the task of mobilising and coordinating international emergency relief to disaster-stricken areas and to cooperate in promoting disaster preparedness and prevention.

Queen inspects training centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor visited the Institute for Child Health and Development in Suweilch Monday afternoon where she inspected a civil defence training course being given to women in the eastern Suweilch local community.

The Queen is the chairperson of a committee formed last week to coordinate and follow-up national efforts exerted by the country's voluntary sector during the current crisis situation.

The National Committee on Coordination and Follow-up comprises representatives of Noor Al-Hussein Foundation, the General Union of Voluntary Societies, the General Federation of Jordanian Women, the Jordan National Red Crescent Society, the Queen Alia Fund, the Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, and the Federation of Young Women's Christian Association in Jordan as well as the Director General of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation.

The course, attended by nearly 65 women, has been specially devised by the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation to train people in effective community organisation and solidarity, civil defence and first aid, home economics, rationing of consumption, self-reliance in food production, and alternative

nutrition for children and adults.

The women have been grouped into three classes to maximise the effectiveness of the training.

During the Queen's visit, one class was receiving instruction in making and equipping first aid cabinets, the second in preparing home-made foods from ingredients whose availability is not affected by emergencies, while the third class was engaged in training in water rationing and energy saving.

The institute's Director Dr. Hind Dawani, thanked in a brief welcoming address all those who cooperated with the staff in organising and conducting the training course, specially the Civil Defence Department, the Ministry of Health and the Water Authority.

The 1,000 families surveyed by the institute have been divided into "clusters," each consisting of 20 families, according to the plan devised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, which was adopted as a national programme. From each cluster one representative was chosen to take part in the training course. Each of these women leaders is expected to become a local point in her cluster for information in cases of emergency.

Prince Hassan, EC diplomats, relief officials visit Ruweished camps

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday led a group of heads of international organisations, ambassadors of the European Community nations in Jordan and Jordanian officials on a visit to the evacuee camp near the border post of Ruweished.

The group inspected the conditions of expatriates accommodated in several camps and were briefed on the services offered to them under the present difficult circumstances.

In a statement later, Prince Hassan said that Jordan's appeal for help for the stranded expatriates should reach all concerned governments and international organisations.

"India, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and other Asian countries have special responsibilities to

make arrangements for their nationals to leave for their home countries since Jordan cannot shoulder this heavy responsibility all by itself," the Regent said.

"In addition to the scorching heat of the desert, the camps are very crowded in Ruweished and in Amman and conditions are impossible for everyone," said the Prince.

"Jordan is passing through very bad economic conditions and has already started food rationing programmes, and therefore the country is in bad need of additional food and medical supplies of all kinds to cope with the situation," the Regent said.

"Indeed this is a very serious problem which should be handled in cooperation with the world community," Prince Hassan added.

He said that when the U.N. Security Council demands that Jordan abide by the economic and trade embargo on Iraq it has to realise the grave responsibility shouldered by this country.

Jordan's appeal should reach all expatriates now living in Iraq and Kuwait as they should refrain from leaving through Jordanian territory until the Kingdom deals with the thousands of those already here," the Prince added.

Among those accompanying Prince Hassan on the tour was Mohammad Al Assafi, director of the United Nations Disaster and Relief Organisation (UNDRP) who said that Jordan was shouldering an enormous task.

"I appeal to all countries of the world, especially those who have nationals in Kuwait and Iraq fleeing to Jordan, to extend a

helping hand and shoulder part of the responsibility towards their citizens," Assafi said.

UNDRP, Assafi added, has now embarked on a programme to provide relief supplies and is arranging for the expatriates' departure.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative Ali Atiga said that a plan was underway to coordinate matters between the Jordanian government and U.N. agencies for the benefit of the evacuees.

"The situation is extremely difficult and the amounts of supplies offered by international organisations are slow to come and limited in volume," Atiga added.

He said the evacuees were in need of tents and medical and food supplies in large quantities.

Exhibition opens

AMMAN (J.T.) — An archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — a Roman Frontier Fort" was opened Monday at the Registration and Research Centre of the Department of Antiquities in Jabal Amman by Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Kabariti who patronised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

The exhibition, which was organised by the Department of Antiquities in cooperation with the University of North Carolina, displays patterns of military and civilian life at the fort, which is considered one of the largest Roman forts in southern Jordan.

The fort dates back to AD 300 when the Roman Emperor Diocletian carried out a series of measures and reforms designed to strengthen the frontiers around the Arab region.

A range of forts and towers like the ones found at Lajjun were set up in the course of these measures, but the Lajjun Fort was abandoned in the sixth century AD.

Aqaba office opens branch in Amman

AQABA (Petra) — An Aqaba-based office for organising transportation of goods to and from Aqaba port by land announced Monday that it was opening a branch in Amman to help control the transportation services, and to give a fair chance to all registered lorries operating from and to Aqaba.

The office Director Shitawi Jamaani said in a statement that the project was being implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications.

Jamaani said priority in the transportation of all goods is being given to Jordanian trucks, which transport Ministry of Supply's goods to and from the port city and the phosphate from the mines in southern Jordan to Aqaba.

Before the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, Jamaani said, the office had to employ trucks provided by a foreign company in view of the huge amounts of goods that had to be transported from Aqaba to Iraq, but under the present circumstances there is no need for additional trucks and the Jordanian lorries will be used for transportation.

Jamaani said that trucks belonging to the foreign company used to charge a higher price because they were equipped specifically for carrying phosphate. He said it was hoped that through the two offices the process of transportation of goods to and from Aqaba will be better organised.

18 factories to be built in Sahab

AMMAN (J.T.) — A local construction firm Monday signed a contract with the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) to set up another 18 factory buildings at the Sahab Industrial City south east of Amman; the construction work is expected to be completed by February 1991.

A JIEC spokesman said that the new premises were needed to meet the growing demand for factory buildings at the industrial city, as all the other 500 buildings are occupied.

Last June Prime Minister Mdar Badran inaugurated five new factories at Sahab, with a total capital of more than JD 15 million.

Bethlehem University opens after three years

Universities in West Bank, Gaza to remain closed

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Bethlehem University would be allowed to open following an arbitrary closure that lasted since Oct. 1987.

Over the past three years students of Bethlehem University and other universities in the West Bank have continued holding courses in mosques, churches and other places, in secret, after being closed followed the outbreak of the intifada in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in December 1987.

When it was closed, Bethlehem University had 1,200 students and 120 staff, but they now grew into 1,600 students and 150 staff members.

The closure of the Arab universities and schools has drawn severe criticism of Israel by world organisations, including the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), and several calls were made by European governments on Israel to allow the schools and other educational institutions to function again.

Petra said that Bethlehem University was making preparations for reopening for classes and that the reopening of the other universities, including that of Gaza, will depend on the behaviour of Bethlehem University's students in the coming three months.

Last week Israel's Defence Minister Moshe Arens said that

Arens' decision to reopen Bethlehem University came in the wake of the announcement of the results of Tawjihi examinations taken by 15,000 students in the occupied West Bank.

The decision to keep the rest of the universities closed will no doubt deprive thousands of students of pursuing their higher education since the four Jordanian universities have just announced they will accept only 322 of the West Bank students.

According to normal procedures, only three per cent of the total seats in the four universities in Jordan are assigned for West Bank students.

Should the universities in the occupied territories remain closed beyond the three-month period announced by the Israeli authorities the Palestinian students have a slim chance of acquiring higher education this year, specially in view of the current Gulf crisis, difficulties in enrolling at universities in Egypt and Syria and lack of funds to provide for students abroad.

Ministry issues ration cards

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Supply Monday began issuing ration cards and coupons for Jordanian citizens to enable them to purchase rice, sugar and powdered milk at subsidised prices.

Ministry of Supply Secretary General Radi Ibrahim said that citizens could start buying these three commodities at the sub-

sidised prices in a few days' time through the 683 accredited centres around the country.

The ration cards and the coupons will be issued to Jordanian citizens holding valid family registration books, and Gazans living here, Ibrahim said.

The ration cards, Ibrahim said, entitle the holders to buy one and

a half kilogramme sugar and rice at 150 fils a kilo each per month and one kilogramme of powdered milk at JD 1 every six months for each registered person.

According to Ibrahim, the Ministry of Supply based the amount of each person's consumption of these commodities on a 1989-1990 survey.

APPEAL MILK & MEDICINE FOR THE CHILDREN OF IRAQ

An appeal directed to the human conscience all over the world, starting from Jordan. From the children of Jordan to fathers and mothers wherever they are.

The children of Jordan from the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) who are aware there is still a responsive human conscience appeal to all citizens in Jordan, to the local, Arab, regional and international organisations and institutions and the world child organisations and to leaders of the world's countries to end injustice against the children of Iraq who are threatened with being deprived of bread, milk and medicine.

The children of Jordan demand all to implement the principles of the international declaration on children's rights which provides for protecting and taking care of children under all circumstances, in all times and in the days of war and peace alike. The principles of the international declaration on the children's rights by which all the world abide by linking between these rights and the child's basic needs. The declaration's provisions under articles No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 guarantee the protection and welfare of children as well as social, food, and educational security and their right to grow up in healthy conditions in the times of war, peace and disasters.

The children of Jordan appeal for providing milk, food and medicine supplies for the children of Iraq.

This appeal comes on the eve of convening the world summit for children in which many leaders of the world's countries will take part to protect childhood.

As we head our call from the General Union of Voluntary Services in Jordan we appeal to fathers and mothers to respond favourably to this call. Let us share our food together.

Cash and in-kind donations are received at the following centres: The General Union of Voluntary Societies - Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel. 634001, 634009, 630398.

GUVS - Amman Governorate	Tel. 639555
GUVS - Irbid Governorate	(02)242518
GUVS - Zarqa Governorate	(09)981712
GUVS - Balqa Governorate	(05)555285
GUVS - Karak Governorate	(03)351169
GUVS - Ma'an Governorate	(03)32477
Aqaba Islamic Charitable Society-Aqaba	(03) 316130
GUVS - Tafila Governorate	(03)342385
GUVS - Mafrq Governorate	(04)432040

Donations are received daily until 7:00 p.m.

Indian officials step up efforts to repatriate evacuees

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — India, which has one of the largest expatriate communities in Kuwait, has drawn up a multi-pronged plan to evacuate its nationals from Jordan, involving airships and sea passages from Aqaba, embassy officials say.

An Indian plan to airlift an average of 400 Indians from Baghdad every day has run into snags after the Iraqi authorities withdrew permission for two air force planes to land in the Iraqi capital, the officials said.

"The permission was withdrawn at the last moment, and we are continuing efforts to secure it," said a senior diplomat at the embassy here. "Two IL-76 transport aircraft are on standby to fly the moment the permission is granted," he said.

Meanwhile, Air India has increased to six its daily evacuation flights from Amman to Bombay and Delhi and 1,720 people were flown home Sunday, the diplomat said. The number of flights would be raised to eight, he added.

According to the diplomat, about 2,600 Indians remain in Amman awaiting flights while another 3,500 to 4,000 were expected to arrive by Monday evening. Another 12,000 are seated at two camps near the Iraqi-Jordanian border and would be brought into Amman in numbers equivalent to those being flown home every day for the next two days and then almost everyone will be shifted to alternate camps being set up near the capital," he said.

Some of the evacuees could also be moved to the Red Sea port of Aqaba to be airlifted from there, said the diplomat, who preferred not to be identified.

With six daily flights of Air India firmly in place, the daily rate of evacuation could go up to 1,700, according to a communiqué received by the Indian embassy here Sunday. "We are trying to charter at least three other planes to be introduced in the evacuation process, and we should have everything streamlined by Sept. 5, when there would be at least 1,700 Indian nationals leaving Jordan every day," said the diplomat.

Another diplomat said the embassy had secured Jordanian permission to pick up Indian evacuees from Aqaba, but conceded that "it will be a long process before we have the first ship docking there." It is estimated that the voyage from Aqaba in the Red Sea to Bombay would take at least seven to eight days.

"Negotiations are continuing with shipping agents on the terms and conditions of the charter," the diplomat said. "We have asked our embassy in Baghdad to restrict the flow of people to 3,000 every day, said one of the diplomats here. "We can clear the same number every day, and this will also comply with the Jordanian directive that the border authorities will allow in only the equivalent of people departing."

"The main problem we have is accommodation and transit camp facilities," the diplomat said. "Every camp in Amman is overflowing, and we are now

accommodating about 5,000 people in hotels, apartments, and an international fair centre in addition to the embassy ground itself."

"So," he said, "only if we manage to clear the bulk of the backlog can we request the Jordanian authorities to allow those at the border to come to Amman, where we can provide better services."

The diplomat was countering complaints from at least 7,000 people held at a camp near Al Ruweished border post that they were being neglected and have been suffering in the scorching summer heat in the desert without water and proper food for the last four days.

"We are aware of their plight," the diplomat said. "We fully sympathise with them. And that's why we are asking Baghdad to restrict their flow since they would be better off in the Iraqi capital than in the miserable desert camps. We have already sent them food, water and tents," he added. "We have also asked Delhi to send more tents and food items."

Relief officials said one of the camps, situated about 39 kilometres south of Ruweished, with about 31,000 total evacuees, was neglected by all diplomatic missions for over three days after at least three vehicles carrying embassy officials were mobbed. "Some of the officials were slightly injured, and vehicles were heavily damaged," said an official.

The driver of a truck carrying foodstuffs was seriously hurt, and needed five stitches on his head," the official

added. "But the driver said he was not holding it against the evacuees since he understood their plight and sympathised with them. He is back on his rounds with foodstuff to the camps now."

Indian diplomats rejected reports that there was at least one Indian dead in one of the camps near the border. "There was no death," he said. "There was a case of a child stricken with chicken pox, and we have hospitalised the child in Amman."

Until now, there has been no report of any epidemic among the evacuees, who include thousands of Pakistanis, Filipinos, Bangladeshis, Thais, Sri Lankans and others. A senior Jordanian Health Ministry official said Sunday that "until now the situation is very much under control, but if the backlog of evacuees becomes persistent in Amman, warranting the evacuees to be held back at the border camps, anything can happen."

The gravity of the situation was underlined by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who paid a visit to Al Ruweished border post Thursday. "Children are going to die there in the next few days" unless immediate measures are taken to bring the evacuees from the camps to Amman and to speed up the evacuation process," he said.

About 12,000 Indian nationals have been flown home from Jordan since Aug. 6, when the Iraqis opened the borders for foreigners to leave. But no clear estimate is available on the number of people expected to use the overland route through Iraq to Jordan.

Deputies leave for Ankara

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian parliamentary delegation left Amman Monday for Ankara for talks with Turkish leaders within the framework of the Kingdom's ongoing efforts to defuse the Gulf crisis.

The delegation, which is headed by Deputy Taher Al Masri, is scheduled to hold talks with Turkish parliament members and heads of various political groups on means of settling the Gulf crisis by peaceful means.

Masri, who is chairman of the Lower House of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, is accompanied by deputies Nahir Rashid, Abdullah Ensour, Abdullah Al Akleh and Ahmad Al Kofahi.

Last week heads of the professional associations in Jordan handed Turkish Ambassador to Jordan Oktay Aksoy a memorandum addressed to Turkish President Turgut Ozal demanding that the Turkish government not allow foreign powers to use Turkish territory to launch an aggression on Iraq.

The memorandum explained the Jordanian people's stand vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis, and said that any hostile moves on the part of Turkey would leave indelible consequences to Arab-Turkish relations.

Following the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2, the Turkish authorities announced that Tur-

key had stopped tankers from loading Iraqi oil from the last operating pipeline through the country.

Another parliamentary delegation has just returned from a visit to Tehran where its members held talks with Iranian leaders. The talks were described as "very useful and constructive."

As part of European nations' efforts to defuse the crisis, an European parliamentary delegation is due in Amman on Thursday for talks with speakers of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the group comprises parliamentarians from the United Kingdom, France, West Germany and Italy.

An Iraqi People's Assembly delegation will be visiting Amman Tuesday on a similar mission. Petra said that the group, led by Saadi Mahdi Saleh, the assembly's speaker, will hand messages to the speakers of Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament.

Drive carefully!
Traffic can
be hazardous

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zara displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Exhibition displaying posters on environmental control measures of each sector of the environment (air, land and water) at the British Council.
- Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Registration and Research Centre of the Department of Antiquities, Jabal Amman.

LECTURES

- Lecture by Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber on "The Gulf Crisis" at the United Kingdom Alumni Society (UKAS), Jabal Luweibdeh — 8:30 p.m.
- Lecture, in German, entitled "Important Innovations in the German Pension System, Particularly Women" by Dr. Christa Stoffregen at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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'Human disaster' has to be avoided

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan underscored the magnitude and gravity of the flow of evacuees into Jordan when he described it as a "human disaster." At a time when the eyes of the international community are focused on the plight of foreign nationals in Iraq and Kuwait, little attention is being directed to the even more pressing humanitarian problems posed by the continuing flood of evacuees at Al Ruweisib border post. This is tragic and unfair to say the least.

This border post used to handle an average of no more than 600 to 700 arrivals daily. But now it has to deal with an average of over 20,000 daily. In a desperate appeal to the international community to come forward with an effective logistical plan to repatriate the hundreds of thousands who are stranded in Jordan, the Crown Prince has also warned that "children are going to die out there in the next few days," unless something drastic is done to alleviate the suffering of the evacuees. It would be tragic and disastrous if the world makes its move to end this massive human suffering only after children die in the ill-equipped Jordanian posts. An emergency plan must therefore be activated forthwith for this purpose. In this vein, it would be wise to view this human drama in proper perspective. For a starter, the greater majority of these evacuees have decided to flee Iraq and Kuwait primarily because of the war hysteria that was generated by the deployment of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia. Many foreign nationals caught in Iraq and Kuwait had no choice except to regard the massive U.S. military build-up as a sure sign that war in the Gulf is imminent. The minute rationality is reestablished in the Gulf region many of the would be evacuees would opt to stay put instead of stampeding the Jordanian posts as they have been doing ever since the drums of war were beaten by Washington and London.

While the concerned international organisations and other U.N. specialised agencies are still called upon to channel sufficient funds on an emergency basis to deal with the mammoth human problem at Al Ruweisib border post, the most effective way to check this problem is to eliminate its root cause which is still the war hysteria in the Gulf region. With the intensive diplomatic moves that we have witnessed lately, there is now hope that the conflict there would be moved from the battlefield to the negotiating table. It is in such an atmosphere that the foreigners' problem in Iraq and Kuwait and the evacuees' tragic situation in Jordan can be tackled and solved. Until this happens, however, every effort must be made urgently to help those stranded in Jordan to go back to their countries. Jordan alone cannot do it. Their governments and the international community have much to do in this regard, and their effort must get under way immediately.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTRIES

The Helsinki summit meeting next Sunday between Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush is bound to show whether Moscow is inclined to condone Washington's actions in the Gulf and approve a blueprint for aggression or not, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. The Helsinki summit, said the paper, is a good chance for Gorbachev to defend Moscow's declared views which advocate a peaceful solution for the Gulf crisis and demand ample time for mediation to bear fruit in this regard. The summit is also a forum for Moscow to show its total submission to Washington's will and its approval for any act of aggression directed against Iraq — a move which will cost the Soviet Union what remains of its credibility before the world, the paper added. There are certain elements in the Arab World which still believe in Moscow's credibility and say that Moscow can never condone America's action, and can by no means give up its good reputation before the developing nations, earned over the past three or four decades, the paper noted. The Helsinki summit, said the paper, is a unique opportunity for Moscow to prove its stand and to reveal its real intentions to the whole world. But the paper added, whether the summit achieved positive or negative results it is the Arab masses who hold the balance in this equation, and through their determination to defend themselves they are bound to achieve success.

Now that the government partially lifted subsidy on powdered milk, the chance is wide open for dairy farms to market the surplus of fresh milk they had been trying to sell, says a columnist Salah Abdul Samad. Writing in Al Ra'i daily Monday Abdul Samad says that the lifting of subsidies should by no means encourage the dairy farms to raise the price of their products, otherwise they would look to be opportunists in the eyes of the public. The dairy farmers have been complaining that their surpluses of fresh milk were difficult to market, and they have been trying hard to compete with the imported powdered milk that was subsidised by the government, the writer notes. He says this is the right time for these farmers to increase their production and market their fresh milk which is preferred by many in the country to the powdered milk. But should they raise the price, their attempts to market their products will backfire, and will cost them a great deal, Abdul Samad adds. He also calls on the Ministry of Supply to see to it that rationing of basic food commodities, which is meant as the beginning of an austerity programme, would by no means pave the way for a new wave of soaring prices which largely hurt the limited-income groups.

Over the past few days Amman was the centre of a diplomatic flurry amid increased interest in the prospect of finding a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, and Al Dussew daily. To back such efforts, King Hussein has continued his tours of European capitals to discuss the problem and to advocate the Arab nation's idea of handling this serious problem within the Arab framework, said the paper. A peaceful solution is an alternative to a devastating war which Iraq is trying hard to avoid and for which U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has been striving to avert, the paper said.

The View from Fourth Circle

Hormones, humility and the last Yahooo

By Rami G. Khouri

WITH Arab and international energy now focused more on probing the possibility of a negotiated resolution of the Gulf crisis, it behooves us all to take a long and sober look at the possible scenarios for a peaceful settlement. The central factor in this regard may be the ability of both sides to understand each other's psyches and political cultures more clearly than has been the case to date.

It is virtually certain that Iraq will eventually withdraw from Kuwait, and that a negotiated resolution of the conflict is possible, for the following reasons:

1.) A military conflict in the world's pivotal oil-producing region is in nobody's short or long-term interest. It would result in a tremendous loss of life on both sides, b) potentially awesome destruction of Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabian industrial, communication and petroleum infrastructure which has been built at the cost of hundreds of billions of dollars, c) massive displacement of the economies of the industrialised states of the north due to the probable damage to oil-producing, refining and exporting facilities, d) long-term Arab economic regression or even collapse due to the loss of the financial and economic input of the oil producers to the rest of the Arab states, e) a significant rise in anti-American, anti-British and other anti-Western sentiment throughout much of the Arab World, and, f) a deep, medium-term schism among the Arab states which would have very negative effects on the prospects for inter-Arab cooperation, development and security.

2.) The entire world, including all the Arab states, are clearly on record as being

against Iraq's invasion, occupation and annexation of Kuwait, and the international embargo against Iraq will be tightened until it starts to have a significant negative impact on the Iraqi people and economy. Iraq cannot defy the entire world on the issue of its occupation of Kuwait, and certainly is not interested in fighting a war against the rest of the world.

3.) Intense diplomatic activity by a score of Arab and international parties suggests that the will for a peaceful settlement is there, while Iraq itself has made several statements and offers indicating a willingness to negotiate an end to the conflict, and, more importantly, to deal with the status of Kuwait within an Arab context.

The key point now is to understand more precisely the short- and long-term aims of both parties to the conflict, and to formulate a strategy of cooling-down and disengagement which meets the stated demands of both sides. It can be done, if both sides leave sufficient breathing space for honourable men and women to do their diplomatic deeds.

The first thing to keep in mind is that the rigid positions now held by both sides cannot be sustained forever. Both sides will bend a bit as it becomes clear that the inexorable prerequisite for diplomatic progress is some realism, humility and flexibility in the short term. Large egos are at stake on both sides, and these have to be subsumed under the reality of overriding national interest and the quality of life of hundreds of millions of people on both sides of the American/Arab equation. George Bush will have to control his domestic electoral instincts and his deep psychological need to

overcome his "wimp" image, Margaret Thatcher will have to control her abundant political hormones, and the Iraqi leadership will have to control its penchant for playing for high stakes on a global gameboard.

If both sides try to understand one other with more sensitivity and calm, and pinpoint the minimum moves that could form the basis for a negotiated settlement, we might end up with a scenario along the following lines:

From the American/British/Yahooo side, the stated objectives are to defend Saudi Arabia, remove the Iraqis from Kuwait, and restore the legitimate government of Kuwait. Iraq's objectives are to get the British/American/Yahooo troops out of the Arab Gulf states, resolve its significant bilateral border and water access disputes with Kuwait, put an end to Kuwait/UAE oil pricing policies that were perceived in Baghdad as a mortal economic threat to Iraq's very survival, and, more generally, to send a political message to the oil-rich Gulf states to the effect that the expenditure patterns of the Gulf and the economic inequities of the broader Arab World simply could not continue forever in their current state.

The lynchpin and most difficult part of a negotiated settlement may be the political status of Kuwait and the fate of the Sabah family, and this is where the zenith of 20th century creative diplomacy and linguistic ambiguity will have to be reached. Rather than both sides insisting on removing or restoring the Sabahs, they will both have to agree that the national status, political system, regional associations and leadership of Kuwait will have to be left for the Kuwaitis themselves to decide, within an

inter-Arab context which guarantees the decisions which the Kuwaitis themselves reach. Such a solution would, essentially, delay the decision on the ultimate status of Kuwait — and this sort of delay, couched in fullsome inter-Arab diplomatic and psychological robes, is the hallmark of recent Arab diplomacy. It may or may not work, but it could provide the pivotal element which would trigger a possible solution to the other issues — the Iraqi presence in Kuwait, the American/British/Yahooo military presence in Saudi Arabia, and the freedom of the foreign guest-hostages in Iraq and Kuwait.

Key to the success of such an effort would be the ability of both sides to back down from the military confrontation while being able to say that they achieved their stated results — in other words, neither side would be humiliated, and both sides could claim victory. The American/British/Yahooo forces would say that they defended Saudi Arabia (which was never threatened, but never mind that for the moment), achieved an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait (which the Iraqis had started to implement in the first week of the crisis, but never mind that, too), and allowed the people of Kuwait to determine their own legitimate and sovereign government. The Iraqis would be able to say that they, too, achieved their goals, which are the withdrawal of the American/British/Yahooo forces from the region and the resolution of outstanding bilateral issues with Kuwait.

The decisive element in such a scenario is for the American/British/Yahooo politicians to appreciate the fundamental difference between political and military/territorial objec-

tives. The Western assumption is that Iraq wanted to occupy Kuwait forever and perhaps move in to take over Saudi Arabia's oil fields — because history shows that Western imperialism/colonialism operated for centuries precisely according to this principle of physically controlling other people and their resources. Iraq's long-term motives are not the physical occupation of other Arab states, but probably relate more to changing the political and economic relationships among Arab states. They probably want to do this by fostering a new political order which finally rids the Middle East of the haunting, failed legacy of artificial states, political regression and material disequilibrium which have characterised the region since the original Yahooos (the British and French empires) carved up the region and orchestrated a political order in the first half of this century. In other words, for all practical purposes, the Iraqis have already achieved most of their political goals — and their goals were, in the first place, primarily political, not territorial. They have shown the oil-rich Gulf leaders that other Arabs will not forever kneel meekly and suppliantly before the power of money, that there is an intense desire in many other parts of the Arab World for a new and more just pan-Arab political order free of arrogance, the aristocracy of profligate wealth and the tendency to look to the old imperial masters in London and Washington for help in times of danger, and that the vision of the six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council forming a bloc that could virtually form a private rich man's club that was secure and insulated from the other Arabs is only a cruel illusion.

It is likely now that the political forces which the Iraqis have unleashed in many corners of the Arab World will continue the process of pan-Arab political evolution. If the West can see beyond the barrel of its guns, it should recognise that after a negotiated or a military solution to the present crisis, the Arab World will continue to be transformed through the power of its own indigenous political dynamics and national sentiments.

A negotiated solution such I have outlined above allows both sides to achieve their objectives. It is predicated, however, on a big "if" — whether the American/British/Yahooo forces come to terms with the fact that they can no longer determine the political status of every little Arab state which they created three generations ago. In other words, they must accept that the Age of Imperialism is over, and that inter-Arab issues must be left for the Arabs to deal with. As long as legitimate Western interests are preserved, namely access to oil — which is not in doubt because the Arabs need to sell the oil as much as the West needs to buy it — the Western states will have to learn to live with the reality of the new world which we should all cheer: the simultaneous end of the Soviet Empire in Eastern Europe and of the American/British/Yahooo Empire in the Arab World.

If it comes about, a negotiated resolution of the Kuwait crisis could signal whether the world is prepared to include the Arabs in the beautiful new world of freedom and democratic pluralism, or whether we are destined to be the world's last colonies for a few more years.

Iraq's standoff with West benefits Iran

By Mohammad Zargham Reuter

NICOSIA — Iraq's standoff with the West was provided Iran with a unique opportunity to emerge from isolation and press home its importance to the outside world.

Both sides in the conflict are wooing Iran, whose army and strategic position make it a key element in the war many fear could break out over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has already received the first big prize in the Iran's peace terms for an end to the 1980-88 Gulf war, halted by a U.N.-brokered ceasefire.

Iran is, however, sticking fast to its neutral stance, denouncing both the Iraqi conquest of Kuwait and any long-term presence of U.S. and other foreign military forces in the region.

"Iran's posture is to express principled opposition and sit back and watch," a Western diplomat in Tehran told Reuters. "If the Iranians play their cards right, in time their image will go up considerably in the international community. All of a sudden Iran seems very reasonable."

Diplomats and analysts said Iran might seek to enhance its newly recognised moderate image by pressing its Lebanese allies for an early release of the 12 Westerners remaining hostage after Irishman Brian Keenan was freed last month.

They said in the current crisis, Tehran's Islamic government more than ever before was defining its policy in terms of national interests rather than the customary anti-Western Islamic ideology, which Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has also seized on to rally mass support.

"We are almost growing sick of hearing about 'national interests' in briefings, the radio and the press," the Western diplomat said.

Tehran, while pocketing a wind-fall from the sharp rise in oil prices after the Iraqi invasion, has made clear it wants to avert war because it would make the region unstable and undermine the rebuilding of its Gulf war-hit economy.

The government position, with backing across Iran's political spectrum, is seen as a victory for Rafsanjani's efforts to steer foreign policy away from more than a decade of militancy.

Two days after Iraq invaded Kuwait, Tehran announced it was ready to resume ties with Britain

it broke over the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's order for the killing of British soldier Salman Rushdie for blaspheming Islam.

British Foreign Office Secretary William Waldegrave has since said twice that Iran and Britain were on the same side in the Gulf crisis and should review their ties.

More significantly, no mass protest has been held in Iran against the U.S. military moves in the Gulf although officials have touched on the emotionally sensitive issue of "Yankee soldiers desecrating Islam's holiest sites in Saudi Arabia."

Radical university students demonstrated in Tehran when the United States invaded far-off places like Panama and Granada, but the only rally called to protest the U.S. buildup on Iran's doorstep was quickly called off.

"It is amazing. It is rare when a government policy goes unopposed but this time it seems everyone from (liberal former Prime Minister Mehdi) Bazargan to (vocal hardline Deputy Ali Akbar) Mohtashemi backs Rafsanjani," said an Iranian journalist.

In a statement circulated in Tehran, Bazargan's opposition freedom movement party backed the government position but cautioned it against submitting to "blind radicalism" and joining the fray on Iraq's side.

"There is no sign of any significant sympathy for Saddam here, naturally because of all the things he did during the Iran-Iraq war," the journalist said.

Diplomats said Iranians, currently celebrating the return of thousands of prisoners-of-war from Iraq, were keen to see the peace process with Baghdad through to a formal treaty.

But there was no question of Tehran upsetting the world by breaking U.N. economy sanctions as a favour to Iraq.

"Everyone has heard that the price of sheep has risen in border areas and everyone expects things to go across on a small scale," one diplomat said. "But that is quite different than feeding 18 million (Iraqis) and nothing to cause the wrath of the international community."

An Iranian diplomat in the Middle East agreed. "Iran's port facilities are not large enough to allow it to meet the needs of its 56 million people and help Iraq on top... besides, our problems with Iraq are yet to be resolved completely."

Is the military build-up in the Gulf a response to the invasion?

By Fahd Salameh

LET me admit from the outset that I am not a graduate of a political science, nor an experienced political analyst, but a person mainly interested in literature and a regular listener to the BBC World Service. Nevertheless, the recent events that are taking place in the area, and the concentrated military build-up by the Western allies and their friends in the region, posing a threat not only to the Middle East, but at the same time to the world at large, spurred me to rearrange the political issues that were raised during the last eight months and evaluate the cause of this international zeal for the independence of a state, its sovereignty, and this sudden respect for international law and the firm stand by many nations to see the U.N. Security Council resolutions on this specific issue implemented and complied to by all the world community.

Such an international consensus is desirable and encouraging, but it loses its fascination when one subjects it to scrutiny in the light of other events that recently took place, in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Many countries, including the U.K., France, the Soviet Union and the U.S., resorted to their military power in order to settle disputes with much weaker and much smaller countries; and the paradox is that these same states are now shedding tears and parading their power to restore an ousted regime under the pretext of defending international law and implementing the U.N. resolutions.

So, is it really a positive change that we are witnessing in the world's political morality? Is it the positive conclusion of the post-cold war era, the age of perestroika and glasnost? Or is it something relating to a predetermined, pre-meditated plan for redividing the world between the superpowers?

In an attempt to find an objective, logical answer to this question, it would be useful to recall the attitude of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) towards Iraq during the last year. As the Iran-Iraq war came to an end, the attitude of the BBC gradually turned inimical towards Iraq, concentrating on the strength of that country which emerged victorious from its eight-year war. Yet, there was always a parallel line echoing the economic difficulties which Iraq will now face, and the need of financial resources to rebuild its devastated economy. But, just after the downfall of the last communist regime in Eastern Europe in Bucharest, the BBC stepped up its political campaign against Iraq

in an unprecedented manner which would have taken a listener by surprise. The BBC's Middle East correspondent who was chosen to cover events in Romania sent a dispatch comparing President Saddam Hussein with the ex-dictator, Nicolai Ceausescu. However, the correspondent was keen enough to foretell the future and show that by the end of this century, the British public will probably still hear of the eminent fall of President Hussein, implying that he will be still in power.

In the following weeks, the BBC took up another issue for its political analysis in the daily programme "24 Hours". This time it was the possession by Iraq of chemical weapons and the threat such weapons pose to the "civilised world". Analysts and commentators who dismissed this issue were always keen on emphasising the potential danger of such mass destructive arms in the hands of the Iraqi leadership, but not a single reference to the danger which threatens the area from Israel's possession of much more destructive arms.

"The story of chemical warheads subsided gradually only to be replaced by a new episode which occupied the attention of the BBC for another six weeks or so, namely, British journalist Farzat Bazoff, his trial and his ultimate execution. The BBC was very careful to stress in its commentaries and analyses the cruelty of the Iraqi regime, to use its own terms, and what it repeatedly called Saddam's unmitigated bloodthirst.

The next two months were dedicated to yet another new series which aroused panic and fear in the whole world, that is, the steel pipes which Iraq has imported from Britain for a petrochemical complex, but were thought by "experienced" customs officials in Great Britain to be parts of an Iraqi giant gun, aimed at sending long-range chemical warheads to devastate not only Tel Aviv, but also Western Europe and elsewhere in the world.

When the Arab summit conference was held in Baghdad in May, it was viewed by the BBC's commentators as a meeting meant to milk the wealthy Arab Gulf leaders by the poor countries. However, the BBC's Middle East correspondent observed the outcome as a parade of President Saddam Hussein's monomania, and an occasion for his megalomania to surface.

This has been the attitude of the BBC towards Iraq's president for at least eight months; and yet, why is this organised political propaganda against Iraq and why has been maintained for such a

long time, even before the Gulf crisis began?

It seems quite impossible to accept the premise that the overthrow of the Kuwaiti government and the annexation of Kuwait have been the major causes of this military build-up in the area; and it would be naive to suppose that all this diplomatic and political activity is a spontaneous reaction to the violation of international law. It seems more realistic to infer that imperialist intervention in the area has long been planned for, and all the previous concentration of efforts on depicting Iraq's president as a tyrant and a dictator were preparing public opinion at home and abroad for an imperialist move, and to mobilise a consensus against that country and its leadership.

But if one tends to accept this interpretation, one cannot avoid the persistent inquiry: Would the Americans have found an excuse for their intervention, had the Iraqis not invaded Kuwait? And why did Iraq act in this way, and thus provided the U.S. and its allies with the necessary excuse for their intervention?

All the evidence indicate that an eminent Anglo-American intervention in the Gulf region was expected within a very short period of time, especially that the Iraqis displayed an increasing influence on OPEC by determining the minimum price of oil and

putting a maximum ceiling of production, which meant an increase in revenues for the exporting countries and a decrease in their output. This must have enraged the western alliance who would not accept to see Iraq controlling the flow of oil quantitatively and qualitatively. This caused an acceleration in their coordinated efforts to strike against Iraq, the new regional power. At the same time, it is very likely that the Iraqis through their intelligence, found the West was conspiring against them and took the initiative and invaded Kuwait, the act which prompted the western alliance to carry out its plans prematurely, so much so, that the U.S. defence secretary requested the Saudis to ask for American troops to be deployed in the kingdom to defend it against Iraqi aggression."

What were, and are the plans of the western alliance, no one can tell apart from the decision-makers at 10 Downing Street and the White House. Nonetheless, there is one thing which is certain: The insistence of the West to maintain the credibility of Kipling's aphorism concerning East and West, even at a time most people in the world began to see it invalidated.

The writer is currently working on his Ph.D. in comparative literature. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

LETTERS

Decrease the suffering

To the Editor:

Leila Halasa is chairman of Children's International Summer Villages, and Life Link. She is also the representative of the Great Peace Journey organisation in Jordan. She addressed the following letter to the "peoples of the United Nations," members of the above peace organisations worldwide, and to the international media.

We present our appeal to the media of the world and the "peoples of the United Nations." We also present our appeal to Children's International Villages, Life Link and the Great Peace Journey organisations all over the world.

We strongly believe that created conflicts can be solved by peaceful means and not by mass destructive arms and the power to destroy our planet. We ask you to appeal to your governments and heads of states to eliminate these threats and to establish a dialogue to give us a chance to communicate peacefully across borders in order to come out with a peaceful settlement of our problems in the Middle East.

We believe in our strength to find a solution without violence and we also believe that you would greatly improve the prospects of peace and justice in our area by putting pressure on your governments and their representatives to diminish tensions and to shift energies to the challenges posed by human suffering and ecological danger.

Our task, and yours, is difficult, but we should strive to reach the souls and conscience of all human beings to achieve peace and to safeguard us from the sufferings and misery of war.

Amman

'War will be devastating'

(Continued from page 1)

Paris is the fourth leg of a European tour of King Hussein. The King has already visited Spain and Britain.

King Hussein had talks Friday with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

A senior West German politician said on his return from a nine-day tour of the Middle East that Arab officials were increasingly pessimistic about prospects for peace.

"The situation in the region is extremely dangerous and getting worse daily," Hans-Juergen Wischniewski, Middle East specialist for the opposition Social Democrats, told reporters.

He said the flight of thousands of Arab nationals and other foreigners from Iraq and Kuwait in the wake of the invasion has created thousands of job vacancies that can be filled by the Palestinians expelled from the Gulf countries.

Palestinian students have also complained of being deported from Egypt.

One deported student told the AP that an Egyptian official

Rome on Tuesday.

The visit will come ahead of a meeting on Friday of European Community (EC) foreign ministers to discuss the Gulf crisis.

The meeting is expected to focus on plans to provide aid to countries such as Egypt and Jordan that have been hit by United Nations sanctions against Iraq, officials said.

Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis, the current chairman of the EC Council of Ministers, said last month the 12-nation community was ready to help Jordan economically and politically if it complied with the sanctions.

Informed sources said King Hussein would also meet Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for talks on the Gulf crisis ahead of the U.S.-Soviet summit in Finland next week.

Qatar deports Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

help.

He said the flight of thousands of Arab nationals and other foreigners from Iraq and Kuwait in the wake of the invasion has created thousands of job vacancies that can be filled by the Palestinians expelled from the Gulf countries.

Palestinian students have also complained of being deported from Egypt.

One deported student told the AP that an Egyptian official

at Cairo airport told Palestinian students being expelled: "Let (PLO Chairman Yasser) Arafat and (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein educate you." He refused to be identified, saying he hoped to return to Egypt one day.

On Sunday, the PLO headquarters in Tunis issued a statement condemning the deportation of the students from Egypt and their treatment at Cairo airport.

Klibi resigns over Gulf

(Continued from page 1)

have had to move the headquarters back to Cairo in the coming months after the league decided in principle last March to make the Egyptian capital the organization's base again.

Egypt's suspension was lifted last year.

Diplomats said the move to Cairo would have put Klibi in a difficult position, but it was not known whether this influ-

enced his decision to quit.

This month's ministerial meeting is due to confirm the decision in principle to move back to Cairo, but the issue was complicated by the Gulf crisis.

Iraq was chairman of the committee in charge of working out details of the move, but decided to block it on the grounds that Egypt was not impartial in the Gulf dispute.

Frustrated with the West, Palestinians rally behind Iraq

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

BAQA'A CAMP — Abu Aziz, who has been living in refugee camps for four decades, says that he had started to despair of a solution for the Palestinian problem until Iraqi President Saddam Hussein challenged American interests by taking over Kuwait.

"For the first time I feel that if there is any hope for this deaf world to listen, this (challenging of the U.S.) could be the only way left," Abu Aziz told the Jordan Times in a recent interview.

The sixty-year-old Palestinian, who was displaced twice, in 1948, when Israel was established and in 1967, when the Jewish state occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip, echoes a widely held conclusion that only through threatening U.S. interests, would it reconsider its attitude to the Palestinian people.

"The Palestinians have tried all possible means but they proved futile — what Saddam is doing now is the right thing," Abu Aziz argued.

In Abu Aziz's view, the Iraqi president is forcing the world to pay serious attention to the Palestinian plight "which was neglected and ignored."

For Abu Aziz and many other refugees, the immediate consequences of a possible Iraq-American confrontation are almost irrelevant. "We have nothing more to lose, let the West pay the price," said Issa, a Palestinian from Al Wihdat refugee camp.

In Baqa'a, and in other refugee camps, hope is mixed with bitterness and frustration: Hope that a solution might be finally in the offing if Iraq insisted on linking the Kuwait

crisis to the Palestinian problem and bitterness and anger at the international political and military mobilization in "defense of Saudi Arabia."

"Why didn't Washington send its troops to help us when we were expelled from our land, why does it always support Israel and those who are against the Palestinians?" screamed one scarred Palestinian woman when she spotted foreign journalists.

In the last two weeks the sight of foreign, particularly Western journalists, in the refugee camps appeared to be sufficient to provoke the eruption of accumulated anger at the West.

The presence of a small Dutch television crew in an alley of the Baqa'a camp last Friday was enough to start a small, albeit loud, riot of protest against the West and the U.S. in particular.

Women, children and even some elderly shouted at the crew to leave the camp. "What are you doing here? Leave us alone," they said. "Isn't it enough what you have done to us already, what more do you want?" an old man with a grey beard and a brown dushdash asked.

Upon knowing that the crew was trying to explain why Palestinians supported Iraq the group started shouting anti-American slogans and reiterating their backing for President Hussein.

"You want to know why, because we are against the U.S.," said a woman with an emotionally choked but steady voice. "How come our people are getting killed (by Israel) everyday and the world was silent and suddenly it is moving all of it's troops to the region."

In Baqa'a, and in other refugee camps, hope is mixed with bitterness and frustration: Hope that a solution might be finally in the offing if Iraq insisted on linking the Kuwait

said an angry woman.

The commotion drew the attention of passers-by and of neighbours who joined the small demonstration. Children between the ages of eight and 12 were no less outspoken than the adults.

"What is the job of the (United Nations) Security Council? Isn't it supposed to bring about peace and justice? Why did not it do anything for us?" Sa'ed, an eleven-year-old, whose big hazel eyes appeared to be questioning everything asked. "Why is it moving suddenly now, why are they against us?"

"Leave us alone, we do not need you," many shouted, "just tell the U.S. to get off our backs we are fed up," said the old man.

The refugees faces expressed the accumulated anger of decades but the tone was that of despair.

"Those who had blocked all doors in the face of a just and peaceful settlement drove people to despair," argued Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee Member Yasser Abed Rabo.

Most refugees, except for veteran political activists who struggle not to lose patience, are not interested in sophisticated political analysis any longer. For them their experience is more telling than any theorising or political speech.

Abu Aziz still recalls how Palestinian refugees clung to any ray of hope since the very first day of their displacement.

"At the beginning any news on the radio, any fiery speech by an Arab leader and we would think that it was a matter of mouth, and even weeks for the Palestinians to return to their homeland," he remembers.

In the mid-sixties the Palestinians were already disillusioned by the political rhetoric, sought action and formed the commando Palestinian groups. Armed struggle replaced fiery rhetoric as the new hope for liberation.

The 1967 defeat and the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, completely crushed the popular faith in the "pan-Arab nationalist" radical states but boosted the status of the Palestinian commando movement.

But since then many refugees recall, how each "victory" brought about with it hope, and each defeat shattered many dreams of return until a new "victory" opened new horizons.

What seems to be the most difficult and agonising experience was the Palestinian intifada, which sharply raised the

expectations and the hopes of the Palestinians when it first started three years ago. But as Palestinian refugees were watching the continuous Israeli suppression of the intifada, and lack of effective action on the part of the Arab World, despair was compounded to unprecedented level, according to analysts.

"The intifada was our hope but it was left alone while the U.S. kept blocking any chance for international action," said Abu Aziz whose face twitches with pain when talking about the intifada.

Some Palestinians, blame the PLO for raising the expectations of the Palestinians in the prospects for a diplomatic solution.

For the Palestinian refugees a new hope was born with Saddam Hussein's warning

that he would wipe out half of Israel if it attacked Iraq.

The American and Western criticism of Iraq, according to Palestinian activists, had only served to increase Saddam's popularity.

Although some political activists would argue against the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, for the average Palestinian refugees Kuwait and the Gulf states are both a source of remittances for expatriate Palestinians and an obstacle in the way of an Arab action against Israel.

"Without controlling the oil Arabs can never force the U.S. to change its bias in favour of Israel, they (the West) do not want the oil to be under Arab control and therefore they fight Saddam," said Issa.

According to activists in the camps, Palestinian refugees

had stopped to anticipate any international or United Nations action to redress the Palestinian problem. "People watched with disbelief when the United Nations Security Council all of a sudden became efficient," said member of a Palestinian leftist group who was deported by Israel in the mid-seventies.

In the opinion of one Palestinian academic, the mobilisation of international troops in the Gulf did not only confirm Palestinian suspicions that they were neglected by the international community but it also compounded the feeling of despair.

"Saddam should not withdraw from Kuwait unless the Israelis withdrew from our land... He has to know that this is our last chance," said Abu Aziz.

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Soviet, E. German athletics successes may be last triumphs

LONDON (R) — East German and Soviet successes at last week's European Athletics Championships in Split, Yugoslavia, may prove the final triumphs of two sports systems which are already disintegrating.

East Germany collected 34 medals, including 12 golds, while the Soviet Union won 22 medals with six golds.

From next year Germany will compete as one nation and the unique East German system of sports training and coaching system will largely disappear.

Similarly, Soviet commentators say, the Soviet structure by which athletes graduate through trade union sports clubs is falling apart.

the 1984 winter Olympic Games, and poorer parts of the country such as the southern province of Kosovo could resent cash being poured into the Olympics when they need money to catch up with the rest of the country.

"Yugoslavia is a Third World country trying to be a first world country," said one Belgrade resident.

Yugoslavia is heading towards a multi-party democracy after 45 years of unbroken Communist rule, but rising nationalism has prompted fears of violence between its various ethnic groups.

"Yugoslavia has undergone deep transformations towards democracy and forming a more effective economic system," Bakocevic said.

"I don't think the political situation puts people off because I am deeply convinced that changes will be made in a democratic way and there is no danger," he added.

Increasing tension between Serbs and Croats, Yugoslavia's largest ethnic groups, and between Serbs and ethnic Albanians demanding more autonomy in Kosovo may make the IOC think otherwise.

The home team continued to attack after half-time and were rewarded with a 52nd minute goal headed in by striker Eloy Olaya from a cross by Brazilian Toni Gomes.

But Atletico stayed in the match and in the 74th minute Austrian striker Gerhard Rodax powered in a shot that left the Valencia goalkeeper no chance.

Belenenses managed their first win away to local rivals Espanol in seven seasons Saturday night thanks to Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov.

New signing Stoichkov, joint winner last season of Europe's Golden Boot Award with Real's Sanchez, gave added thrust to the northerners' attack and scored the only goal of the match.

Espanol fought back in the second half, creating three or four goal opportunities, but in the end had to accept defeat.

I'VE BEEN WAITING EVERY DAY FOR A LETTER FROM THAT PRETTY LITTLE GIRL I MET AT CAMP...

I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHY SHE HASN'T WRITTEN...

PLUNK!

NICE CATCH

WHAT?

8-24

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J. Kline

GIVE THE DEFENSE A HIGH FIVE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH			
♣ K J 6			
♥ K 9 7 6			
♦ K Q J			
♠ 10 9 6			

WEST	EAST
♣ A 3	♠ 10 9 5 4 2
♥ J 10 8	♥ 8
♦ 6 4	♠ 9 8 7 3 2
♣ A K Q J 8 5	♠ 4 3

SOUTH			
♣ 9 8 7			
♥ A Q 4 3 2			
♦ A 10 5			
♠ 7 2			

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1	2	4	Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

He had a leather wallet containing two decks of cards and a scorepad. Inscribed on it, in gold, was: "Life isn't holding the good cards. It's playing 'bad hand well'!" Today's East would certainly agree with that philosophy.

With no ace or ruffing values, North's jump to four hearts might be considered a trifle aggressive. However, the overcall had made life difficult, and the jump to game was an equitable solution to a thorny problem.

West led the king of clubs and continued with the jack. East echoed by first following with the four and then the three, to show an even number in the suit, and West passed to take stock. There were 28 club cards; three had to be counted in dummy and West's hand. In light of South's opening bid, West realized that East could hardly be relied upon for so much as a jack.

Whence could the defenders collect the setting trick? The trump suit offered the only possibility. West worked out that, if East had the five of trumps, the contract could be defeated. To make sure nothing got away, West cashed the ace of spades at trick three and then led a low club to make sure East did not discard.

But, a little surprised to see that dummy's ten of clubs was a potential winner, duly ruffed with the five, Declarer was forced to over-ruff with the queen, and mortal damage had been inflicted. No matter what declarer did, the defenders were assured of a trump trick for down one.

We like West's thoughtful defense. First cashing the ace of spades and then leading a low club made sure that if the contract could be defeated, it would be.

[illegible]

As Kuwait exodus continues more Jordanians return there

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As cameras capture the picture of the thousands of foreigners and Arabs pouring into Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait, the picture of the thousands of Jordanians who are returning to Kuwait has gone virtually unnoticed.

According to Ministry of Interior sources, thousands of Jordanians residing in Kuwait are increasingly returning to the country which they fled following the Iraqi invasion Aug. 2. On Sunday alone, 1,346 Jordanians left the Kingdom for Kuwait, via Iraq, according to a source at the Ministry of Interior.

A busload of 50 people left Amman Monday noon, returning to their homes and families in Kuwait, disregarding the Iraqi takeover, and some even looking forward to living under Iraqi rule. Many are uncertain, however, about their financial future, blaming the U.N.-imposed sanctions on Iraq and Kuwait.

"I've been in the import-export business in Kuwait for 34 years, and all of that is going down the drain because of the sanctions," said Wa'd Jandaneh before boarding the air-conditioned, video-equipped bus.

Jandaneh, like others returning on the bus, was in Jordan

with his wife and children when the Iraqi army entered Kuwait Aug. 2. He is now returning his family "to see what the situation is like and if it is possible to continue working there under the circumstances. If everything is alright, my family will join me there."

Several hundred thousand Jordanians had been living in Kuwait before the Iraqi takeover, and many are returning to avoid facing an uncertain future in the Kingdom. The official unemployment rate in the Kingdom is set at 15 per cent.

The bus, which departed Monday was the second in less than a week. According to an employee at the private-owned transport company, and two chartered buses are scheduled to shuttle between Amman and Kuwait twice a week from now on.

Ismat Mohammad, who was born and raised in Kuwait, boarded the bus to join her family which was in Kuwait during the Iraqi takeover. Although the company for which she worked was forced to close down because of the blockade on Iraq and Kuwait, she expressed optimism.

"My brother called and said everything was normal; food, water, electricity, everything was still available in Kuwait and he encouraged me to return," Mohammad told the Jordan Times, adding that she

expects "things to get better."

Many Jordanians who have lived in Kuwait for decades are even looking forward to return under Iraqi rule, and believe that life would be easier than living under the deposed Kuwaiti royal family.

"I really believe it will be better for us now under Iraqi rule," said Maha Mahmoud, who plans on returning to Kuwait soon to join her husband and parents who remained there during and after the Iraqi takeover.

"It was announced that schools would open on Oct. 10 along with Iraqi schools. So I intend to put my children in school and finally get a job. You know we, as Jordanians and Palestinians, weren't allowed to work in any public institution or even in banks. But now I can get a decent job," Mahmoud told the Jordan Times.

She added that she could not enroll at Kuwaiti universities because only Kuwaiti nationals were permitted to receive their higher education there. She said that her siblings and herself had to attend universities abroad, although her parents had worked and lived there for over 30 years and the children were born in Kuwait.

"In Iraq, Jordanians and Palestinians are treated at par with Iraqis and are entitled to a university education like any Iraqi citizen," Mahmoud com-

mented.

A Jordanian businessman who spent most of his life in Kuwait told the Jordan Times that conducting business in Kuwait "had become unbearable."

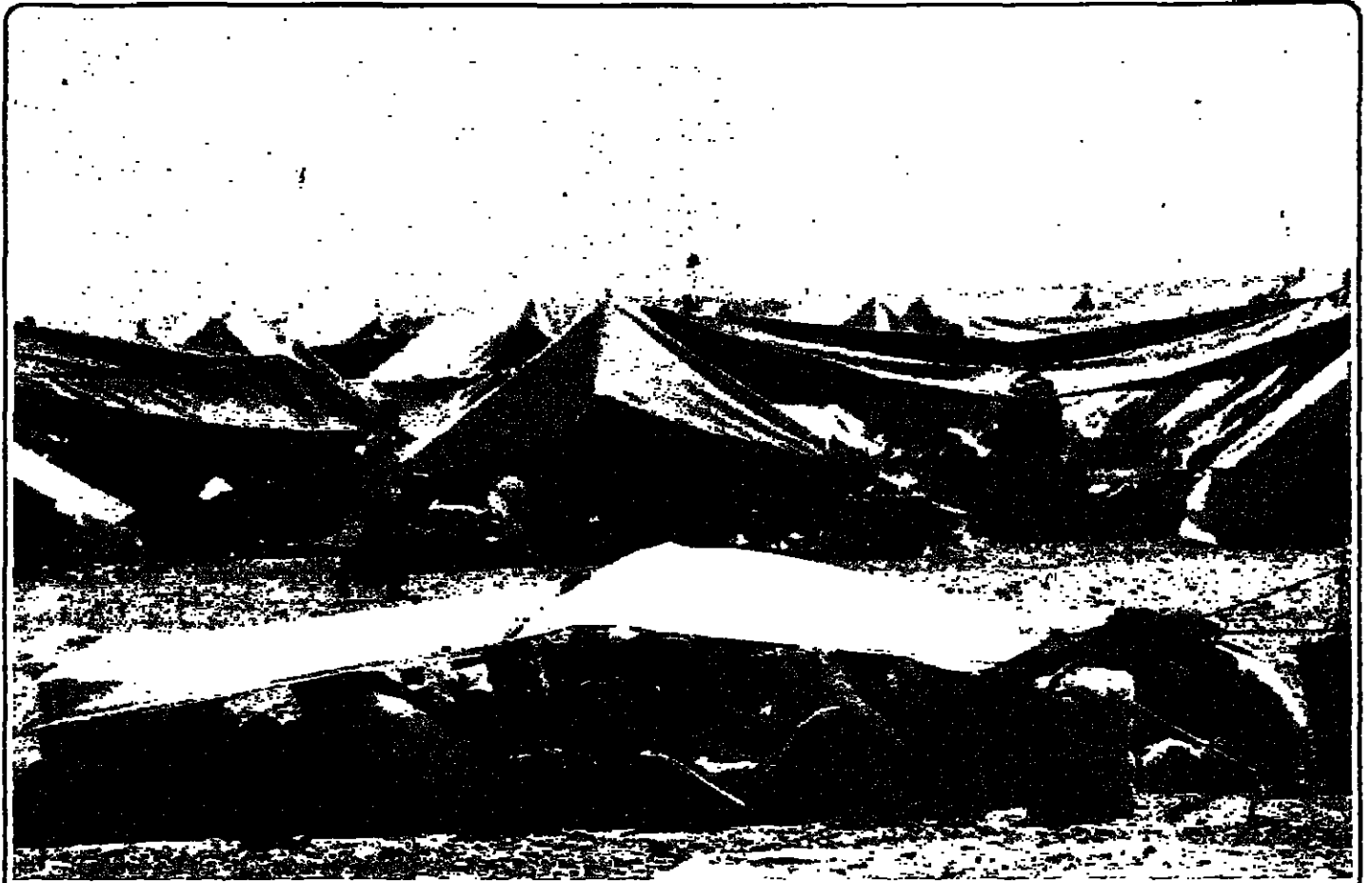
The businessman, who preferred anonymity, said that in order to register a private business in Kuwait, one had to have a Kuwaiti partner and registered under the Kuwaiti national's name.

"So you have a situation where you put in all the capital, do all the work, and you have to give half of the profits to the Kuwaiti partner for doing nothing but renting his name," said the businessman. He believed that this was the case for all the Gulf states.

Though optimistic about returning to Kuwait to pick up where they left off, the Jordanians expressed some fear about the possibility of war breaking out.

"What choice or options do we have but to return to Kuwait?" asked Ismat Mohammad before boarding the bus heading on the long, dusty journey.

"Kuwait is all we know, and we intend to stay there regardless of the possibility of war breaking out," she said. "If we live with this fear, we might as well not continue living. We must go on and, I think and hope, things will be better for us now."



Exposure to the sun is the main threat facing the thousands of evacuees from Kuwait now at two camps near Al Ruweished who are awaiting arrangements for their flights home (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Frustration mounts among 'hostages of the desert'

'If there is hell on earth it is here'

Relief organisation warns of catastrophe among evacuees

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Thousands of Asian evacuees being held back at two makeshift camps in the desert south of the Al Ruweished post awaiting their embassies to clear them are losing patience over their seemingly endless wait, and this frustration could turn into desperation, according to several Asians who managed to reach Amman on their own after spending several days at the camp.

According to social workers and relief officials, despair over having lost everything overnight with the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, fears of a military conflict, the trauma of the trek across the desert from Kuwait through Iraq to Jordan and anxiety over the future — not to mention lack of water and food — are compounded by what is perceived as many by inaction and inefficiency of their own governments and officials.

"All the ingredients are there for mass violence," said a relief official who preferred anonymity. "To make things worse, ethnic conflicts are also rearing their ugly heads in the camps," he added. "If country-to-country conflicts are not enough, then you have the dozens of the various sects in the national communities there. There are south and north Indians, Pakistanis and Mohajirs and Sri Lankan Tamils and Sri Lankan Sinhalese, and sooner or later frustration over their plight and signs of favouritism could lead to a bloodbath in the camp," he said.

According to an official of the French Medicines Sans Frontiers (Doctors Without Borders) organisation, there are about 16,000 Asians in the first camp, Shaalan One — about nine kilometres from Ruweished — after the Pakistani embassy here cleared it of Pakistani nationals Saturday.

The second camp, Shaalan Two, about 39 kilometres from the border post, holds about 31,000 according to Dr. Michel Klerc of Medicines Sans Frontiers. "The situation is worse at Shaalan Two," he said. "There is simply not enough food and water."

But he struck a note of optimism. "There is a lot of food which has already arrived from the European Community (EC), and things will be much better in the next two days at both camps with increased food and water supplies."

"People could get killed there if the present situation continues," said Jamaluddin Rahman, a Bangladeshi who joined the 28,000 or so of his countrymen already in Jordan awaiting homeward flights after spending one week at Shaalan two. "There is not enough food, no water, no toilets... no officials," he told the Jordan Times. "Tents are there of course but what is the use when one goes thirsty and hungry?"

"We cannot but curse our government," he said. "They should have made some arrangements to let us have some place to rest in peace."

AMMAN — The French Medicines Sans Frontiers Monday issued an urgent appeal to the international community help alleviate the suffering of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait and warned that a "catastrophe" would strike if urgent assistance was not extended.

Describing the situation in the evacuee camps near Al Ruweished as the "worst I have ever seen," Medicines Sans Frontiers President Xavier Emmanuelli said: "If the international community does not pay attention, it will be a catastrophe."

Addressing a press conference at the Queen Alia international airport, Dr. Emmanuelli said exposure to the sun was the main threat to the people living in the two camps.

"These people are hostages of the desert," he said noting that most of the stranded in the camps were city dwellers not accustomed to living in the desert.

"Every time a truck with food or water comes in there is a riot," he said. "People tear at each other to be the first to get at the truck; tempers flare, and people go for each other's throat rather than food and water."

"What makes it worse, if that is possible, is the way food is distributed," he said. "The trucks just come in and throw around packets of sandwiches. Who grabs it get it."

"The violence does not necessarily come from thirst or hunger," he added. "Of course, everyone is thirsty and hungry, but it is despair and fury over the inaction of our governments that is triggering violence."

A Sri Lankan, who gave his name as K. Muthuswamy, said: "Our government has been foolish enough to entrust our consulate in Amman to take care of us. Didn't they know better?"

An Indian supermarket salesman, who gave his name only as Sharma, said the situation of the estimated 9,000 Indians in the camp was no different from the other

In a statement issued earlier Monday in Paris, the medical charity said ethnic tension was growing among the refugees and called on governments to bring their citizens home more quickly.

It said in a statement it was opening up a second transit camp.

Relations between the 15,000 Pakistanis, Indians, Sri Lankans, Bangladeshis and Filipinos in its existing camp were becoming strained, it said.

"Water rationing and the lack of food, added to the very high temperatures that the refugees — among whom are many women and children — have to suffer is causing the emergence of some ethnic tension," it said.

"We call urgently on international organisations to speed the return of these Asian citizens to their own countries."

It said the new camp would be next to the first one opened at Ruweished.

thousands of Sri Lankans, Filipinos and Thais and others. "We would like to ask our governments: What are you doing? Didn't you realise that there could be a massive influx of evacuees through Jordan? Why did they not prearrange things?"

"We were dear and near to them when we used to send home precious foreign exchange," he said. "Now that we are destitute after losing everything in Kuwait they seem to consider us worthless."

Sharma's description of Shaalan Two was simple but very telling: "If there is hell on earth, it is there."

Indian officials defend themselves by arguing that at least on three different occasions their officials and vehicles were attacked when they entered the camp, and this made things very difficult. "We entrusted the local authorities to look after our people in the camps and arranged for food and water to be distributed," said one official. "Even then, the food truck was attacked, the driver was seriously injured, another Indian official was slightly wounded and vehicles were damaged," he said.

About 4,000 Indians and an unknown number of Bangladeshis were cleared from the

two camps by Monday evening, but an equal number arrived there from Ruweished simultaneously.

Relief officials said they had evacuated around 1,800 pregnant women, children and sick people from the camps and efforts were continuing to bring more out.

But the problem is, said Dr. Klerc of Medicines Sans Frontiers, "more people are arriving at the same time we are evacuating people." Medicines Sans Frontiers plans to open a third camp in the area in the next two days.

Signs of improvement in the overall situation appeared Monday with increased evacuation flights of various nationalities. The United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO) was organising chartered flights to evacuate the Bangladeshis, the Indian embassy was raising to eight the number of Indian evacuation flights, at least two planes were expected to pick up Sri Lankans and one Thai aircraft was on its way to Amman.

According to an Asian diplomat, "an easy way out of the situation is to have the American transport planes which unload their deadly cargo of arms and ammunition in the Saudi desert fly to Amman and airlift the evacuees."



Every segment of the national communities of India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand and the Philippines is present in the camps (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

U.S. has the military might but not the economic clout to police the Gulf

By Rich Miller
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The United States may be acting as the world's policeman in protecting Gulf oilfields, but its appeal for economic help to carry out the task shows it is no longer the world's banker, analysts and economists said.

Saddled with a big budget deficit, Washington has turned to its allies for help financial U.S. troops in the Gulf and assisting needy nations hurt by the crisis there.

"This is our own fault. If we weren't in such terrible financial condition ourselves, we wouldn't be whining about a couple of billion dollars," international political consultant Christopher Whalen told Cable News Network.

President George Bush said last week he was sending Secretary of State James Baker and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady globetrotting to drum up money for the effort to stop Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

He appealed for help not only for the U.S. but also for countries hit by the economic fallout from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

In a tour that could begin next Wednesday, Baker will go to Europe and the Middle East while Brady will go to Asia.

The trip could last two weeks and is to include meetings with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Bush cited Turkey, Egypt, Jordan and the nations of Eastern Europe as needing help. The surge in oil prices after the invasion and the economic sanctions ordered by the United Nations



13 AMERICANS KILLED: The wreckage of an American C-5 Galaxy transport plane crashed on takeoff from West Germany, killing 13 aboard. The plane was part of the massive American airlift of troops and equipment to Saudi Arabia from American bases in West Germany.

against Iraq have hurt a wide variety of countries.

"The... Gulf campaign is coming at a time when the U.S. government is confronted with its most serious fiscal crisis since the great depression," said David Hale, chief economist at Kemper Financial Services Inc.

Even before the Gulf crisis began, the government's finances were straining under the weight of an explosion of borrowing to bail-out failed savings and loan institutions.

Washington estimates its military buildup in the Gulf will cost at least \$2.5 billion by the end of September.

Besides higher defence costs, the government faces a drop in tax income as the economy slides

to recession, economists said. If U.S. troops have to stay in the Gulf for months to counter the threat from Saddam, the budget deficit for the year starting on Oct. 1 could rise to \$300 billion, Hale said. That is roughly double last fiscal year.

Although the economy has survived big deficits, it will be the first time it also has to bear a surge in military spending, a drop in tax income and large bank rescue costs, Hale said.

Robert Horns, vice-chairman of Goldman Sachs International, said Bush's call for international help was both wise and necessary.

"Expensive or extensive U.S. military initiatives will come under heavy public scrutiny,

especially in light of pressing domestic needs," he wrote in the Washington Post.

Japan has promised to give one billion dollars to help the international forces in the Gulf, and is working on ways to help Turkey, Egypt and Jordan, which have suffered from tech economic sanctions against Baghdad.

Gianni de Michelis, foreign minister of Italy which is current president of the 12-nation European Community, welcomed Bush's approach, saying: "We are ready to do our part."

"The political essence of President Bush's request for burden-sharing is right and we are ready to participate," he added in an interview on NBC television from Rome.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday visits one of the camps where Asian evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq are awaiting arrangements for flights home (Petra photo)

International airlift to take home Sri Lankans, Bangladeshis

By Ali Masarweh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — International efforts to relieve Jordan of the massive flood of refugees who entered the country in the wake of Iraq's takeover of Kuwait last month took an upward turn Monday, with the first batch of Sri Lankan women and children being flown out of Amman Monday evening.

The 182 Sri Lankans were flown out of Amman aboard a special Royal Jordanian (RJ) flight chartered by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in cooperation with the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRP).

The IOM, a governmental organisation based in Geneva, has appealed to the international community to finance an extensive airlift of the evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq to their respective countries as Jordan is struggling to cope with the grave problems created by the continuing influx.

"So far, we have secured \$50 million which will finance the first part of the operation, by the end of which 9,000 Sri Lankan and Bangladeshis will have been repatriated," Dr. R.K. Jenny, director of the department of operations of the IOM, said at a press conference held at Queen Alia International Airport.

According to Dr. Jenny, Norway and the European Community (EC) countries have contributed the lion's share of the \$50 million, and other countries, such as the U.S. and Japan, have pledged further financial support for the undertaking of the massive airlift.

The airlift, described by one IOM official to be "the most important repatriation of refugees since World War II, will be augmented by a Soviet Antonov plane, with a capacity of 450 passengers, as of Tuesday.

The Soviet plane will evacuate 4,500 Bangladeshis and a total of six special flights are being organised to transport 1,100 Sri Lankans, most of

them women and children, according to IOM officials. "There are currently more than 100,000 foreign refugees in Jordan, 60,000 of whom are put up at camps in the border area. They are in urgent need of food, blankets and tents which have to be donated by the international community," a U.N. official said.

While describing the conditions at the Shaalan Two camp near the Iraqi border to be "very bad," Mohammad Essaafi, assistant secretary general of the U.N. coordinator of disaster relief, denied reports that people at the camp were going hungry and that epidemics were breaking out.

"Although there are food shortages, people are not going hungry," he said. "Sanitary conditions are bad, but infections and diseases have not broken out in the camps," Essaafi said.

While the U.N. coordinator for disaster relief is concentrating on improving living conditions for the refugees, evacuating the thousands of refugees is the top priority for the IOM.

"Providing funds for the aid of refugees is, of course, essential, but as the inflow of refugees into Jordan is far greater than the outflow. The speedy repatriation of refugees is our priority," Dr. Jenny told the press conference.

"We will renew our appeal for more aid in Geneva tomorrow, and we will seek the help of all sorts of airlines to participate in the airlift," Jenny said.

According to Regina Boucault, spokesperson of the IOM, the organisation is also monitoring the refugee movement from Iraq into Syria, Turkey and Iran.

"Until now, the influx of refugees into Syria is very limited. Iran has declined to supply us with any information on the number of evacuees crossing their border (with Iraq) and Turkey has not appealed for help as yet," Boucault said.

Another press conference dealing with the current refugee problem and ways of addressing it is scheduled to be held by the IOM and UNDRP Tuesday morning.

Sanctions against Iraq put Yemen in a tough spot

By Nabila Megall
The Associated Press

BAHRAIN — The infant Republic of Yemen, like Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), has been caught in the crossfire of the Gulf crisis. It has close ties to Iraq, and the outcome of the Gulf crisis could be crucial to Yemen's future.

Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait came only three months after the Republic of Yemen was formed by the May 22 merger of North Yemen and South Yemen. The merger ended nearly three decades of rivalry.

The Gulf crisis is seen as the first big test for the fledgling state, strategically located in the southwestern tip of the Arabian Peninsula.

It sits astride the Bab Al Mandeb strait, southern gateway of the Red Sea which has become an increasingly important waterway since the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war made the Gulf more dangerous for shipping.

Western diplomats said that the crisis has brought out smoldering ideological differences inside Yemen. There had been opposition to the merger from Islamic militants in the North and diehard Marxists in the South.

Thousands of Yemenis have staged pro-Saddam demonstrations. Many have reportedly volunteered to fight for Iraq against the United States and its allies who are building up

forces in Saudi Arabia. Gen. Ali Abdullah Saleh, president of the new republic, has put himself on the spot trying to support Iraq without risking collision with Saudi Arabia, his powerful neighbour, analysts say.

Saleh, the former president of North Yemen, is one of Saddam's main allies. He has refused to join Arabs ranged against Iraq and has objected to the deployment of the U.S.-led multinational force, deployed in Saudi Arabia.

Yemen has said it will abide by economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations on Iraq.

British sources said that Yemen could become a staging post for an air bridge into Iraq to get around the quarantine, but aviation experts think that unlikely.

Arab diplomats said Saleh's stance is "inexplicable and self-destructive" and contended that no Yemeni leader can afford to offend the Saudis, one of the country's main benefactors.

But like Jordan, Yemen faces serious damage to its shaky economy if trade ties with Iraq are severed.

"If Iraq comes out victorious in this crisis, Yemen will look good. If Iraq loses, Yemen will be in a difficult position in all respects, politically, militarily and economically," said one Arab diplomat, who insisted on anonymity.

The take over of Kuwait was an economic blow in itself.

Kuwait, like Saudi Arabia, provided financial aid and was one of the main suppliers of crude oil to Yemen's oil refinery at Aden. Iraq has an agreement to provide 30,000 barrels a day.

Oil industry sources, indicating that Yemen is abiding by the embargo, reported that oil is now being pumped from the North to Aden to make up for the loss of Iraqi and Kuwaiti supplies.

British Royal Air Force sources have reported that some Iraqi combat jets have been flown to Yemen for use as a strategic reserve if Iraqi airbases are hit. Saleh has denied that.

Yemen emerged as a potential flashpoint when U.S. warships began shadowing Iraqi oil tankers in Aden, enforcing the U.N.-sanctioned trade embargo against Iraq.

Yemen's Information Minister, Mohammed Ahmed Garhoon, denied British allegations that Yemen violated the U.N. sanctions by allowing an Iraqi tanker, the "Ain Zalah," to unload at Aden.

He told the Associated Press in a telephone interview that the tanker had partially unloaded before the sanctions were imposed but unloading stopped after the embargo resolution was passed.

Yemen last week ordered the expulsion of Britain's consul-general in Aden, Douglas Gordon, after he was arrested photographing shipping at Aden. But the Yemenis re-

lented after strong British protests.

Yemen stands to lose in other ways. It's a member of the Arab Cooperation Council formed last year with Iraq, Egypt and Jordan. But the take over of Kuwait and Cairo's opposition to Iraq has threatened that economic and political alliance.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has sent troops to Saudi Arabia.

Garhoon insisted: "It's not true that Yemen supports Iraq... Yemen wants Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwait."

He told the AP: "Our position is clear. Our government underlines the necessity of respect for national sovereignty and we reject the use of force. It's only a summer cloud that will soon go away."

Still, a Yemeni newspaper editor, who asked not to be identified, conceded: "We're in a difficult situation... because of our close ties with Iraq."

The Saudis have long felt uneasy about the Yemenis and the prospect of a new political force emerging on the Arabian Peninsula with close links to Saddam.

The new republic, with around 12 million people, is the most populous state in the peninsula. The merger heightened concern among the theocratic Saudis about its avowed commitment to democracy and secularisation, particularly from the South.

Americans demand more from Japan

By Robert Trautman
Reuters

WASHINGTON — President George Bush has hailed Japan's billion-dollar pledge to the multinational military effort in the Gulf, but questions remain whether the contribution was enough for an economic superpower heavily dependent on Middle East oil.

Japan said on Thursday the funds would go for medical aid and for ships and planes to carry non-military supplies to the Gulf. Bush called the offer "a significant contribution."

But one analyst said Japan's reluctance to send military equipment, including minesweepers, on grounds its constitution barred military operations outside of defending its homeland, was "a legal pretext to avoid its responsibilities."

"Middle East oil is essential for Japan's security, and it shouldn't

rely on the United States to defend it," said the analyst, James Phillips, a foreign affairs specialist at the Heritage Foundation.

Kemper Financial Services chief economist David Hale said that based on Japan's wealth, it could pick up a far bigger share of Gulf defence costs.

He said that since Japan's Gross National Product was \$3 trillion, and it relied on the Middle East for 65 per cent of its oil, "it would not be unreasonable for her to absorb 25-35 per cent of the American military costs not picked up by the rich Arab countries."

Based on U.S. Gulf spending estimates and the presumed Arab contribution of the overall costs, Japan's share would run as much as \$750 million a month, far short of the total of one billion dollars it pledged.

The billion was promised only after repeated calls between Bush and Japanese Prime Minister

Toshiki Kaifu. U.S. officials are trying to persuade Japan to increase its aid in money and to consider "minesweepers and non-military personnel."

But Japanese officials have ruled out additional aid.

Analysts said lack of substantial Japanese aid could create a backlash in the United States, with renewed cries that Japan was not playing its fair role as a superpower.

Critics say Japan has run up big trade surpluses with the United States at the same time it spends little for its own defences, instead relying on an American military shield.

New cries of trade protectionism could arise, they say.

Phillips said: "The Japanese government should realise that if American soldiers start coming home in body bags and the Japanese do little, then Americans are going to have some hard questions about the trade deficit

and Japan's small defence budget."

A dissenting view was raised by a foreign policy expert at the Brookings Institute, Philip Trezise, a former U.S. assistant secretary of state.

He said the billion was for military aid only and was adequate, although Japan should make good on its pledge to provide additional funds to help Egypt, Turkey and Jordan, economies hard hit by the United Nations embargo.

Trezise cautioned against Japan sending minesweepers to the Gulf or amending its constitution to permit it to expand military operations.

He said such a move by Japan would renew fear by its Asian neighbours, including China, that the Japanese were once again becoming a military power.

"Sending minesweepers would be like opening a Pandora's box," Trezise said.

Habash urges attacks on Western, Israeli interests

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Palestinian commander George Habash Monday urged Arab liberation movements to boycott and strike at Israeli, U.S. and Western interests because of the foreign military intervention in the Gulf.

"Commando operations against the enemy must continue, especially following the Gulf crisis. All Arab liberation movements must raise the slogan of boycotting and striking at Israeli, U.S. and Western interests," he said.

Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), was speaking to reporters for foreign news organisations during his first visit to Baghdad for 14 years.

"America must understand that

it does not control the world. We should say no to America," he added in reply to a question on the deployment of foreign forces in the Gulf after Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Habash denied reports quoting Palestinian sources in Baghdad as saying on Sunday that he had cut his ties with Damascus and moved his headquarters from the Syrian capital to Iraq.

"It is not true that we have moved PFLP headquarters to Baghdad. It is still in Damascus and I hope to be back in the Syrian capital in the near future," he said.

"I hope to remain here for a few days, not weeks."

The PFLP leader said his visit to Baghdad was to "tell the Iraqi

people and leadership that we stand in one trench for the defence of Iraq's freedom and Arab pride."

Habash said that after talks Sunday with President Saddam Hussein, "I have become confident that Iraqi and Arab masses are prepared to solve the (Gulf) problem through peaceful means but at the same time keeping their fingers on the trigger."

He added that one of the reasons for his trip to Baghdad was to "try to improve relations" between Syria and Iraq, ruled by rival factions of the Arab Baath Socialist Party.

"We in the PFLP are keen to maintain the best possible rela-

tions (with Syria and Iraq) despite occasional differences," Habash said.

Asked about the possibility of re-opening PFLP offices in Baghdad, closed down in 1979 because of a divergence of views with the Iraqi leadership, he said: "I hope so."

Habash earlier told local correspondents: "The Arab masses, with all their revolutionary movements, should consider Iraq's battle as their own... and struggle with all means to defend Iraq and its pan-Arab liberation policy."

He also said: "Any forces supporting the American invasion of Arab territory are reactionary and allied with imperialism and Zionism."

Airlift of Westerners from Iraq slows down

(Continued from page 1)

the multinational forces by providing jeeps, car-carrying ships and other products and services. International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto held a meeting with leaders of the automobile, steel, electronics, construction, machinery and plastics industries.

— British Foreign Secretary

Douglas Hurd, in Yemen Monday on the fourth stop in a Gulf tour, said, "We have to settle down for a long haul, which will require a good deal of steady determination on the part of all concerned." Yemen has said it will abide by the trade sanctions, but Yemenis have demonstrated in support of Saddam.

— In Bangladesh, at least 50

people, including six policemen, were reported injured Monday in a demonstration protesting the dispatch of Bangladesh troops to the Gulf. United News of Bangladesh reported.

The round-the-clock deployment of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia and Gulf waters continued Monday as U.S. amphibious-warfare ships went through

the Suez Canal.

— U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will come to Taif, Saudi Arabia, Friday to discuss Kuwaiti financial assistance to the U.S. military effort. However, Kuwaiti Minister of Planning Saleman Abdul Razzaqi Al Mutawa told reporters the United States has not mentioned a specific sum.

Thousands pledge to continue struggle

(Continued from page 1)

military deployment in the Gulf, the intifada, possibly the most emotional issue for Palestinians and Jordanians alike, took its rightful slot in the political scene with Monday's event, observers said.

Lower House deputies Faris Nabulsi and Bassam Haddadin took the opportunity to reinforce their pan-Arab stance with their constituencies.

"We may be facing the most difficult test in our modern history," warned Nabulsi. "But this is our chance to rid the region of the evils of im-

perialist powers once and for all."

Mohammad Qabot, a Palestinian expelled by the Israeli occupation authorities, asked the roaring crowd where the "humanitarian world" was when he and hundreds of Palestinians were expelled from Palestine.

Haddadin called for an "end of the reign of imperialist and Zionist spies" in the Arab World as the crowd answered with chants of "Long live our Arab Nation."

Azmi Khawaja, a member of

the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), told the audience that whatever the cost "the intifada, of which we in Jordan are an integral part, must continue until liberation."

"We have not forgotten the last time we were bombed by the Americans," Intissar Al Wazir (Um Jihad) told the crowd, referring to American bombardment of the mountains of Lebanon in 1982.

"We have grown accustomed to defending our homeland from foreign aggressors and fighting to liberate those

parts that they conquer. But has the West not grown tired of taking what is not theirs to take?" asked Um Jihad, widow of Khalil Al Wazir and one of the over 30 women serving in the Palestine National Council (PNC).

The Al Umma party rally, which was organised by its founder, Deputy Ahmad Aweidi Abbadi, was marked by posters of His Majesty King Hussein and President Saddam Hussein and speeches which dealt mostly with the Gulf crisis and internal Jordanian politics.

Helsinki summit aims at sealing cracks in superpower 'alliance'

By Gene Gibbons
Reuters

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine — U.S. President George Bush's Helsinki summit with Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev could keep cracks from developing in the international alliance arrayed against Iraq and add to the pressure on Baghdad to end its occupation of Kuwait.

Though Bush insists the meeting in the Finnish capital next Sunday will not focus solely on the Gulf crisis, it comes at a time when Moscow is obviously becoming a little jittery about the massive U.S. military buildup in the region.

The official Soviet news agency TASS reported on Thursday that Deputy Minister Alexander Belongov had told a parliamentary committee there were no guarantees that the United States would remove its troops when the crisis ends.

General Vladimir Lobov, Soviet military commander of the Warsaw Pact, said U.S. forces in the Gulf would alter the global strategic balance.

If Bush can ease Kremlin fears, it will reduce chances that the United Nations resolve to strangulate Iraq economically will be weakened by a rift between the superpowers. Bush told reporters on Saturday he was "very anxious" to discuss the crisis with Gorbachev.

Until it cut off arms shipments this month, the Soviet Union was Iraq's main source of weapons. It still has 193 military advisers and 5,000 construction workers based in the country.

The Helsinki meeting is the first tangible evidence of the rapport Bush and Gorbachev said they established at their five-day



George Bush



Mikhail Gorbachev

summit in Washington last spring. That meeting included more than eight hours of relaxed discussions at the presidential retreat Camp David.

"We both agreed up at Camp David that this kind of informal, unstructured format might be very good in a world where there are so many changes. So it's good chance to test that now," Bush said on Saturday.

"I think it is important at this juncture that we discuss issues not just as they relate to Europe and try to update where we can on these arms negotiations, but also to discuss the Middle East," he said.

Besides trying to assure that the United States and the Soviet Union continue to act in concert on the Gulf crisis, U.S. officials said the president hoped to give a nudge to negotiations on reducing Conventional Forces in Europe.

Washington and Moscow would like a so-called CFE treaty

to be the centrepiece of a Nov. 19-23 Paris summit of the 35-nation conference on security and cooperation in Europe.

Bush's one-day visit with Gorbachev underscores his strong belief in personal diplomacy. Since Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, he has been on the telephone almost constantly to leaders, including French President Francois Mitterrand, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Turkish President Turgut Ozal and Japan's Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

He has met British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner, Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Jordan's King Hussein.

One very noticeable omission from the president's call list was Gorbachev. Bush said he had proposed that top-level superpower contact was unnecessary because U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister

Eduard Shevardnadze were in frequent touch.

But Bush suggested on Saturday that he was just waiting for the right timing to play what in the current crisis could be an ace.

Asked at a brief news conference at his seaside holiday home why he had not phoned Gorbachev since the Gulf crisis erupted a month ago, the U.S. leader replied: "Because I anticipated seeing him."

Bush said he had proposed the U.S.-Soviet summit "over a week ago, maybe, or something like that."

That timetable indicates his bid for a meeting may have reaped an immediate reward — Soviet support last Saturday for a U.N. resolution authorising the use of force if necessary to cut Iraq's economic lifelines.

It was the strongest such action in the 45-year history of the world organisation and gave Bush's Gulf policy a powerful political boost.

Rumours pull down Tokyo stocks

TOKYO (AP) — Share prices on the Tokyo stock exchange fell sharply Monday, and the U.S. dollar declined against the Japanese yen.

The 225-share Nikkei stock average, the Tokyo exchange's most closely watched indicator, plunged 557.94 points, or 2.15 per cent, closing at 25,420.43 points.

A light 360 million shares changed hands.

Kazuhiko Nomura, a trader with New Japan Securities Co., said the stock index had risen robustly in the morning along with bond prices, but collapsed in the afternoon on a rumour of a price increase for imported liquefied natural gas.

"If there is the slightest bit of news, traders are poised to begin selling," Nomura said.

A security dealer with Nippon Kangyo Kakumaru Securities added that shares were sold on a rumour that authorities were investigating possible manipulation of paper company shares.

The dealer, speaking on condition of anonymity, also said buying enthusiasm declined after a Japanese news report quoted a British newspaper as saying the United States had decided to use military force against Iraq.

In currency dealings, the U.S. dollar closed at 143.55 yen, down 0.95 yen from Friday's close of 144.50. It opened at 143.40 yen and stayed in a narrow range between 143.32 yen and 143.70 yen.

Mideast instability raises doubts over future aluminium supplies

LONDON (R) — The Gulf crisis could have long-term repercussions for aluminium as badly needed new supply projects might fall by the wayside, metal and industry analysts have said.

"Twenty-five per cent of planned new projects are in the Gulf... and are now threatened with foreclosure, either because they won't get finance, or because the region will be considered unstable," said Nick Moore, analyst at brokers Ord Minnett in London.

"That capacity will be needed, as demand in the 1990's will expand," said analyst Weil Buxton of Lehman Brothers International.

At the moment, the world's production and consumption of aluminium is finely balanced. Four successive years of deficit ended with a 191,000 tonne surplus in 1989, Lehman Brothers 1990 annual review of the market showed.

This year, Lehman forecast supply exceeding demand by 200,000 tonnes, but analysts predict the surplus in 1991 will be considerably less and could easily be eroded in some currently capacity was shut down.

There are five aluminium smelters in the region, at Bahrain, Dubai, Iran, Turkey and Egypt. Last year, they produced 500,000 tonnes of metal between them, or four per cent of the total world output of 14.37 million tonnes, Moore noted.

Expansion plans for the existing smelters at Dubai Aluminium (Dubai) and Aluminium

Bahrain (Alba) smelters may not be affected, but as the Bahrain project involved finance from Kuwait banks, alternative cash sources may be needed, said Anthony Bird of Aluminium specialists Anthony Bird and Associates.

But hte long-term implications for planned new projects in the area are extremely poor, Bird said.

Iraq's planned Nassimyah smelter, costed a \$800 million, had potential capacity of 215,000 tonnes and was pencilled in for the mid-1990's. One would put a huge question mark on that one now," Buxton said.

New smelters are also planned in Saudi Arabia, Iran and Bahrain, Bird said the 220,000 tonne capacity Saudi project may be safe, as the London Yanbu, is well away from potential trouble spots.

Before Iraq invaded Kuwait and threw the Arab World into chaos, smelter capacity was set to soar from the current 640,000 tonnes to between 1.27 million tonnes or 1.90 million by 1995, depending on how far projects had progressed, Moore estimated.

"We're going to need every bit of aluminium because the industry is operating near 98 per cent capacity," he said.

If global industrial production is strong in the early 1990's "there would be a huge supply deficit, and the aluminium price would have to soar," Moore added.

And it may not be easy for other areas to take up the slack or

for new smelters to be built elsewhere as costs are high. The expansion to Alba's smelter, which would more than double its capacity to 465,000 tonnes, will cost \$1.4 billion.

Alternative projects in Brazil and Venezuela have been slow to get off the ground, because of cash problems.

The potential certainly exists in Venezuela, where new projects are set to add near 800,000 tonnes to capacity by the mid-1990's, Lehman International figures show.

But for other areas the picture is less promising.

Brazil suffers from power shortages, and there are doubts over hydro-electric capacity in Canada.

Australia is less competitive, because of adverse exchange rates and local inflation.

Meanwhile, expansions, such as those in Norway, are fine, if the extra power can be achieved cheaply, Bird added.

Analysts said that the Middle East would appear to be the best place to build new smelters as it is a cheap place to produce aluminium, but that this depended on the Gulf crisis.

The current crisis might lead to a delay in new smelters, but Buxton said: "If the crisis is settled peacefully, you might find people's memories are short."

In the short-term, analysts expect no disruption to supplies from the existing Gulf smelters, as the sea-lanes will be kept clear to ensure oil-flows to the West.

Oil prices resurge

LONDON (R) — Oil prices rose Monday in London and Singapore amid fading market hopes of a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, oil traders said.

The price of benchmark North Sea Brent blend crude futures jumped by more than \$1 a barrel on London's international petroleum exchange, almost matching early gains in Singapore where Dubai crude futures hit daily trading limits.

Brent futures for October loadings stood at \$27.85 per barrel at 1400 GMT, a rise of \$1.10 from Friday.

Oil traders attributed the sharp rise to a lack of progress in the search for a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis.

"The Iraqis aren't budging and the Americans aren't budging. It looks like three will be force," one London oil broker said.

"The problem is that we don't see any tangible progress in any of the peace negotiations," said Mehdi Varzi of London stock-brokers Kleinwort Benson.

"So long as there is no progress on the peace front there is a risk of war," he said.

Varzi added that oil markets shrugged off comments from Saudi sources that the kingdom's oil production had already risen by two million barrels per day (b/d) to 7.4 million b/d, and might eventually go higher.

"If Saudi Arabia can get to 8.5 (million) that would make the difference, but we're still sceptical," said an analyst with Energy Market Consultants (EMC) in London.

Varzi estimated demand for OPEC oil would still be one to two million b/d higher than the group was capable of supplying in the fourth quarter of 1990, even assuming there was no war.

On that basis, Varzi forecasts that the oil price will go back above \$30 per barrel before the end of the year.

Gulf crisis tests Dubai's regional commercial role

DUBAI (R) — Dubai, a bustling trade city billed as "gateway to the Gulf," has suddenly found itself on the doorstep of a crisis which is threatening its economic success.

Iraq's takeover of Kuwait has renewed fears of war in the Gulf, chilling confidence in a city which has always been a barometer of the region's economic fortunes.

But Dubai's planners still believe their city in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is on track to become a major commercial centre to rival Hong Kong and Singapore.

"Look how far away we are from Kuwait," said Khalid Ben Sulayem, director of Dubai's Commerce and Tourism Promotion Board. "These people who are panicking, they don't even know where Dubai is."

Dubai is about 900 kilometres south of Kuwait — out of range of most Iraqi weapons but still in the middle of a huge U.S.-led military buildup.

Officials dismiss the Gulf crisis as something happening far away, but foreign businessmen say the threat of war is undermining the confidence Dubai struggled to build.

"If this goes on, Dubai will be hurt in the long run," said Jack Greenwald, head of the American Business Council in Dubai.

"Right now, people are postponing decisions on new investment. But you can't postpone forever," he said. "Without new business coming in, Dubai will slip back to being just a trade out post in a hot area of the world."

Foreign investment and trade are crucial to Dubai whose oil reserves are relatively small compared with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Dubai can produce current levels of around 400,000 barrels

per day for about another 25 years, oil industry sources say.

In 1989, it earned about \$1 billion from oil exports, and \$600 million from non-oil exports. Its reexport business in food, textiles, electronics and other products was worth about \$1.8 billion, more than three times the level of 1979, official statistics show.

Foreign investment has grown sharply. Dubai's statistics office says wholly foreign-owned companies account for about 16 per cent of private investment — \$68 million, in the first six months of 1990.

Total private investment surged to \$430 million by June, 1990, up from \$257 million during the same period in 1987.

Sultan Ben Sulayem, head of Dubai's free trade zone and port at Jebel Ali, said the real boost came with the end of the Iran-Iraq war in 1988. "The minute they signed the ceasefire, a lot of people jumped in and signed contracts," he said.

Jebel Ali, which Dubai opened as the world's largest man-made port in 1980, had container throughput of 157,892 TEU (twenty-foot equivalent units) during the first six months of 1990 — up 86 per cent over the same period in 1989.

Together with Port Rashid, which did 328,784 TEU between January and June in 1990, Dubai had forecast total box throughput world top one million TEU this year.

"I think it still will," said Sultan Ben Sulayem. "This crisis will be over quickly and in a year everyone will have forgotten about it."

Dubai's Chamber of Commerce and Industry said it issued 921 new and renewed company licenses in August 1990, only slightly less than the 959 reg-

istered in August last year.

"This drop is not an indication of anything. Things will perk up," said chamber spokesman Mohammad Al Bassam.

But despite no income tax, a pro-business government, and a well-developed infrastructure, some foreign businessmen are getting nervous.

"I have seen a 20 to 30 per cent drop in order-taking," said one international shipping executive based in Dubai. "To rebuild the confidence that was here in July or June will take time."

Many foreign firms have pulled out non-essential staff, and several embassies have warned their nationals against travelling to the area. Airlines and shipping companies are raising prices to deal with war-risk insurance premiums.

Before Iraq invaded Kuwait, Dubai was seeing its dreams nearing reality. Financial, legal and insurance companies were setting up offices, some in charge of areas stretching from Africa through the Middle East to India and east Asia.

"It was a maturing economy. Once a month we were getting a significant new company license," said Greenwald of the American Business Council.

Now Things are on hold, although some people see a silver-lining in the Gulf crisis. "Actually, there can be a spin-off effect from this crisis," William Duff, Dubai's general inspector of customs, said in a recent interview.

"Dubai is likely to emerge as one of the main supply centres for Saudi Arabia and the multinational forces. So I have good reason to be optimistic."

Asiana Airlines orders Boeing jets worth \$6b

FARNBOROUGH, England (R) — Asiana Airlines of South Korea placed orders and options for 51 Boeing airliners worth almost \$6 billion, Boeing Co. said Monday.

Boeing, based in Seattle, Washington, said at the biennial Farnborough International air show near London that Asiana had placed firm orders for 10 medium-range Boeing 767-300s, eight short-haul 737-400s, six long-range 747-400s and three 747-400 freighters.

Asiana also took out options on eight more 767-300s, seven 737-400s, six 747-400 passenger jets and three 747-400 freighters.

Boeing said the 27 firm orders were worth about \$3 billion.

Asiana, formed in 1988 by the South Korean conglomerate Kumho Group, already operates 10 737-400s and two 737-300s.

It has previously announced orders, worth \$1 billion, for two 767-300s to be delivered next month, two 747-400s for late 1991 delivery and five 737-400s, with options for another five 737-400s.

The independent Korean carrier has not yet chosen which engine will power the newly ordered 747s and 767s. All its 737 variants are powered by CFM 56-3 engines, built by General Electric of the United States and Snecma of France.

"This latest order brings the total Boeing firm orders in 1990 to 283, valued at \$27 billion, Boeing said.

Rocard suggests lower speed limits to save oil

PARIS (R) — Prime Minister Michel Rocard said Sunday that France could respond to higher fuel prices resulting from the Gulf crisis by lowering car speed limits.

"We have to consider this," Rocard told a meeting of Socialist Party members in southern France. "The stakes for society are very high."

Government experts estimate that France would cut annual oil imports by two million tonnes, or around three per cent, if it reduced the speed limit on highways and motorways by 20 kilometres per hour. The current motorway limit is 130 kilometres per hour, while on country roads it is 90 kilometres per hour.

Rocard predicted his proposal would meet resistance. "I know just how important the car is to the French imagination," he said. "I know that higher petrol prices have never really reduced the use of the automobile."

Mozambique raises fuel prices by 65%

MAPUTO (R) — The Mozambican government raised petrol prices by 65 per cent Monday in reaction to increased world oil prices following the Gulf crisis.

The ministry of industry and energy announced that a litre of premium grade petrol would cost 914 meticals, up from 554 meticals.

The new price is slightly less than the equivalent of \$1 at the official exchange rate of 936.45 meticals Monday.

Other petroleum derivatives will also cost more. Diesel rose 50.5 per cent, jet fuel 61 per cent and domestic gas 44.6 per cent, the ministry said. The price of kerosene, used by many Mozambican families for household lighting, remained unchanged at 224 meticals a litre.

Saudi Arabia boosts fuel supply for U.S. warplanes

RAS TANURA (R) — Saudi Arabia has more than doubled its production of a special jet fuel to help supply U.S. fighter planes sent to protect the kingdom against possible Iraqi attack.

Adnan Sharidah, planning supervisor at Saudi Arabia's main Ras Tanura refinery, told reporters Monday its output of JP-4, a mixture of naphtha and kerosene used by military planes and some land vehicles and naval warships, was increased to 5,000 barrels per day (b/d) in August from 2,000 b/d in July.

He did not give a reason for the increase, which brought the refinery's production of the fuel to its maximum level.

Diplomats in the kingdom say Saudi Arabia is supplying U.S. forces with fuel, free of charge, to help cover the cost of the massive U.S. military buildup.

Riyadh last month cancelled its September contracts loading of gasoline, kerosene and gas oil to its Far East customers due to what it termed "the current difficult situation."

It also stopped sales of gas oil and kerosene out of both of its Gulf refineries, one a 250,000 b/d capacity joint-venture with Shell located at Jubail and the other Saudi-owned 530,000 b/d plant at Ras Tanura.

Sharidah said total output at the Ras Tanura refinery, the world's biggest, had been boosted to 460,000 b/d from 310,000 b/d prior to Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

Saudi oil sources say the kingdom last week raised its total crude output by two million b/d to 7.4 million to help compensate world markets for the loss of Iraqi and Kuwaiti crude and to help generate cash for its military buildup against Iraq.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES					
Monday, September 3, 1990 Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	658.0	662.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	458.9	461.7
Pound Sterling	1241.1	1248.5	Dutch guilder	370.2	372.4
Deutsche mark	417.0	419.5	Swedish crown	113.7	114.4
Swiss franc	501.6	504.6	Italian lira (for 100)	56.3	56.6
French franc	124.5	125.2	Belgian franc (for 10)	203.4	204.6

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.			
One Sterling	1.8720/30	U.S. dollar	1.1580/90
One U.S. dollar	1.5840/45	Canadian dollar	1.5840/45
	1.7865/75	Deutsche marks	1.3175/85
	1.3175/85	Dutch guilders	32.50/55
	32.50/55	Swiss francs	5.3110/60
	5.3110/60	Belgian francs	1177/1178
	1177/1178	French francs	143.80/90
	143.80/90	Italian lire	5.8065/8115
	5.8065/8115	Japanese yen	6.1100/50
	6.1100/50	Swedish crowns	6.0630/80
	6.0630/80	Norwegian crowns	387.25/75
	387.25/75	Danish crowns	
		U.S. dollars	

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

Nabila Obeld — Salah Qabeel
in
THE DANCER AND THE POLITICIAN
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

Dured Lahham
Madeline Tabar
in
1-KAFROUN
3:30, 6:45, 8:45 P.M.
2-SENIOR WEEK
5:15, 10:45 p.m.

British Ladies of Amman

Announcement

The British Ladies of Amman wish to announce that their next meetings will be as follows:

5th September 10-12 a.m.
12th September 4-6 p.m.
At the Amra Hotel
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PHILADELPHIA

Samir Sabri - Meali
Zayed
in
Hell "2"

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOUN

Nabalah Ubeld, Mahmoud Abdul Aziz & Sharhan
in
THE VIRGIN AND THE WHITE HAIR

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:00 a.m.

Cinema Tel: 699238

PLAZA

Adel Imam
in
HANAFI THE GRAND

Performances: 12:30, 3:45, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45

Liberian rebels declare war on African multinational force

MONROVIA (R) — Liberian rebel leader Charles Taylor has declared outright war on a West African peacekeeping force, dubbing it a band of foreign mercenaries.

"Our country has been invaded by hostile foreign mercenaries consisting of bandits and hooligans brought in by Samuel Doe to continue his killing of the Liberian peoples," Taylor said Sunday on ELBC radio which has now resumed broadcasting under rebel control.

Taylor described Doe, whom he is seeking to overthrow, and the 4,000-strong peacekeeping force as "our common enemy who are determined to destroy Liberia."

Samuel Doe and his foreign mercenaries must be destroyed or removed from our motherland," Taylor said, warning Liberians there was no room to be neutral or sit on the fence.

Taylor's national Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) has been locked in battle with the

peacekeeping force, which comprises military units from Nigeria, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia since it arrived in Monrovia nine days ago.

This is the first time that Taylor, who has already declared himself president of a new provisional government, has publicly declared war on the white-helmeted peacekeepers.

The force has been welcomed by the small breakaway rebel movement of Prince Yormie Johnson, which controls the port of Monrovia, and by Doe, who is holed up with several hundred wild and undisciplined troops at the executive mansion.

Taylor's NPFL controls most of Liberia and the eastern suburbs of the capital, where Radio ELBC is situated.

The peacekeeping force was formed under the auspices of the Economic Community of the West African States (ECOWAS) to impose a ceasefire in Liberia's eight-month civil war.

The force, which is officially known as the monitoring group (ECOMOG), also has a mandate to help form an interim government to organise fresh elections within 12 months.

Taylor accused ECOMOG troops of killing civilians, raping women and children, looting homes and selling drugs such as cocaine, crack and LSD to the local population.

This correspondent, who has observed ECOMOG closely since its arrival in Liberia, has seen no evidence to back up these charges.

The force has been well disciplined and courteous and restrained in its treatment of civilians.

The only known incidents of looting have concerned the petty theft of goods from cargo containers in the port area. The soldiers responsible were arrested and disciplined.

Taylor claimed his forces had recaptured Spriggs-Payne downtown airport in Monrovia, which was seized by ECOMOG forces

Pope starts tour of African heartland

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — Pope John Paul II left Dar Es Salaam Monday on a trip that takes him deep into the African heartland with an appeal to the world not to abandon Africa.

The Pope, who began his seventh visit to Africa Saturday, was starting his day with an open-air mass in the small south-western Tanzanian town Songea before crossing the country to Mwanza on the southern shores of Lake Victoria.

Crowds of jubilant Tanzanians danced, sang and waved as the 70-year-old Pontiff left Dar Es Salaam airport on board a small Fokker jet. His African trip also takes him to Burundi, Rwanda and Ivory Coast.

The Pope will appeal to the world not to forget the poorest continent, which is facing the

combined problems of crushing poverty and rampant AIDS.

Africa has more AIDS cases than any other continent and the Pope lost little time before restating his opposition to the use of condoms to check the spread of the killer disease.

On Sunday, he told an open-air mass in Dar Es Salaam that marital fidelity was the best way to defeat AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

The Pope Monday decried the failure of development in Africa, blaming a thirst for power and profit for sending the continent into poverty and injustice.

"How many young people in Africa are deeply affected by the lack of hope that overshadows their future," the Pope said on the third day of his 10-day Africa tour.

"Certainly it is not easy for people, especially young people, to be self-giving and generous when they see around them so much poverty and suffering, so many instances of neglect and injustice," he said in his homily.

The Pope said the hopes of many Third World countries have been dashed by hunger, malnutrition, crime and corruption.

He compared the situation to the chaos described in the Book of Genesis, where the world was a "formless void and there was darkness over the deep."

But he urged Africans to maintain hope, saying "many problems of development, no matter how overpowering, can be solved if there is a new attitude diametrically opposed to a selfish desire for profit and the thirst for power."

Colombia, rebel group sign peace agreement

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — A leftist guerrilla group and a paramilitary group signed a peace agreement Sunday, a Colombian radio report said.

The insurgent group, the People's Liberation Army, and the paramilitary force had been fighting for about five years. Thousands of people have been killed in the fighting.

The agreement was signed in the village of Pueblo Nuevo, near the Gulf of Uraba in northwest Colombia, the radio chain, Caracol, said without citing any sources.

Neither the president's office nor the Public Affairs Office at Colombia's Defence Ministry were open Sunday, and it was not possible to confirm the broadcast report.

Pueblo Nuevo is where members of the guerrilla group, known as the EPL, have been allowed to gather during peace talks with the government of President Cesar Gaviria.

The peace talks started about three months ago.

Spokesmen for the paramilitary group have said that the organisation was started by catmen to defend against guerrillas. Government investigators have said that right wing group ran death squads that kill leftists.

Government investigations also have concluded that the death squads were supported by drug traffickers. Colombia's traffickers own vast tracts of land in the area contested by the paramilitary groups and the guerrillas.

The leader of the paramilitary group, Fidel Castano, said last week in a communiqué that his group had no reason to exist if the EPL was reaching a peace agreement with the government.

Castano said his group would contribute \$2 million to peasants in the northern state of Cordoba and land for farming.

The right wing private army and the guerrillas agreed Sunday to work together toward economic recovery of the strife-torn area, Caracol said.

Ethnic Albanians strike in Kosovo

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (R) — Ethnic Albanians started a one-day general strike in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo Monday in protest at a crackdown by the Republic of Serbia.

Many small shops in the provincial capital Pristina were closed and those that were open were run by the minority Serbs. Kosovo is mainly populated by ethnic Albanians but controlled by Serbia.

Local authorities have threatened to prevent the stoppage and some opposition leaders fear clashes, but the region was calm and streets were deserted as the strike started.

"This strike is meant to show that the Albanian people collectively oppose Serbian policy," said Jusuf Buxhovi, secretary of Kosovo's biggest ethnic Albanian opposition group, the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo.

It was not immediately clear if ethnic Albanians in other towns in Kosovo had heeded calls by an opposition trade union to stay home in protest at the sacking of thousands of workers and curbs on the region's autonomy.

The stoppage was expected to halt most industry and shut thousands of small shops, leaving only emergency and security services operating.

The newspaper Vecernje Novosti said Serbia had drafted in 500 doctors and 1,200 telecommunications workers to ease the effects of the strike. It quoted the head of a special Serbian Police Force as saying police were ready for trouble.

Ethnic Albanian children and teenagers appeared to have responded to a call by opposition groups not to start the school year Monday as scheduled to reduce the risk of clashes.

Kosovo has been a focus of ethnic friction for decades. The majority 1.7 million ethnic Albanians want more autonomy but Serbia, Yugoslavia's biggest republic, retains tight controls because it regards Kosovo as the cradle of its culture.

More than 50 people, mostly ethnic Albanians, have been killed in protests against Serbian rule since March 1989, according to official figures. Ethnic Albanians say the toll is much higher.

Tension has risen since Serbia dissolved Kosovo's government and parliament in July, after ethnic Albanian deputies declared independence from Serbia, and police used tear gas and batons to break up a protest by 10,000 ethnic Albanian last Wednesday.

Serbian authorities purged Albanian language media and sacked about 6,000 ethnic Albanians this summer, opposition groups say.

1 of 4 U.S. households hit by crimes last year

WASHINGTON (AP) — A violent crime or property crime hit one in four U.S. households last year, virtually the same level as the past five years, a Justice Department report said.

"In 1975, when this statistical series commenced, about one in three households was struck by crime," said Steven Dillingham, director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics which produced the report.

The actual percentage of households that suffered a violent crime or property crime was 24.9 per cent, up slightly from 24.6 per cent in 1988, the report found.

The figures include attempted as well as completed crimes.

A total of 23.5 million households suffered from one of the crimes checked: rape, assault, robbery, personal theft, household theft, burglary and motor vehicle theft.

The bureau's figures come from the National Crime Survey (NCS), which annually interviews members of 49,000 households nationwide to determine crimes to household members who are at least 12 years old. The NCS does not check for murder, because it compiles its information from surveys of victims.

China, Soviet Union call for end to arms for Cambodian factions

PEKING (Agencies) — China and the Soviet Union have pledged to stop arming Cambodia's warring factions and said they would welcome exiled Prince Norodom Sihanouk as head of a post-civil war interim administration, the People's Daily said Monday.

The official newspaper, quoting a Chinese statement issued after foreign ministers Eduard Shevardnadze and Qian Qichen met in the northeast Chinese city of Harbin at the weekend, said: "Both sides maintained that all Cambodian factions should, within the scope of a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian issue, effect a ceasefire and that China and the Soviet Union will cease providing military aid to all Cambodian factions."

"Both sides called on other countries concerned to adopt a similar position," it said.

The newspaper said both would welcome Sihanouk as head of an interim administration.

The statement was unclear as to when the two main Cambodian arms suppliers would end shipments, saying only that this should be part of an overall settlement.

China, the main weapons supplier to Khmer Rouge guerrillas fighting the Vietnam-backed Phnom Penh government, has previously promised to end arms supplies.

The two foreign ministers share the view that the settlement of the Cambodian question is now in a decisive phase," the statement said.

Diplomats said the agreement in principle after the Qian-Shevardnadze meeting was a sign that the main backers of the Cambodian civil war combatants were moving closer together.

"This is a positive sign," said an Asian diplomat. "This should help prospects for peace."

Meanwhile the Cambodian government has accepted an invitation to join its guerrilla opposition in talks on an interim government body and new United Nations peace plan.

State radio carried Prime Minister Hun Sen's letter of acceptance addressed to Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, who is organising the talks in Jakarta, Indonesia's capital. Hun Sen said the talks would start Wednesday.

A text of the Sunday broadcast was seen in Bangkok Monday.

Hun Sen wrote he was happy the meeting will be held "in order to decide the composition of the Supreme National Council (SNC) which will quickly open the way toward a common solution for the Cambodian problem."

Hun Sen said he will attend if the main guerrilla leader, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, also attended. Otherwise, the government will be represented by Hor Nam Hong, a minister in the prime minister's office in charge of foreign affairs.

The guerrillas have said they will attend.

The rebel coalition comprises the Communist Khmer Rouge and the non-Communist forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and of Son Sann's Khmer People's

National Liberation Front.

Both sides have said the talks should focus on finalising the Supreme National Council and on a peace plan the United Nations Security Council adopted last week.

The plan calls for the Supreme National Council to act as a figurehead government while the United Nations takes over five key ministries in the period before elections.

It also called for the armies of Phnom Penh and the guerrillas to be disbanded and regrouped into supervised cantonments.

An attempt to form the council in June collapsed when the Khmer Rouge said the allocation of seats on the council was unfair to it.

Cambodian guerrillas have moved at least 60,000 refugees from camps in Thailand back into Cambodia and some have died from disease as a result, Western aid officials said Monday.

Most of the refugees were from camps run by the Communist Khmer Rouge, said a senior aid official, speaking on condition of anonymity. The others were from a camp controlled by an allied guerrilla group, the forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

He said the movements began after the September 1989 pullout of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia, but most of the refugees had been located in the past six months. They were moved apparently to consolidate areas the guerrillas recently "liberated," he said.

Ex-KGB general wins parliament seat

MOSCOW (R) — A former KGB general, stripped of rank and medals by President Mikhail Gorbachev for campaigning against the security service, has been elected to parliament, provisional official results showed Monday.

Oleg Kalugin's victory gave him parliamentary immunity against legal proceedings already started by an angry KGB establishment.

This is a defeat for the Communist hierarchy and a sign that we're now strong enough to exert influence in this country," an aide of the former spy-chief said.

TASS news agency said Kalugin, 55, defeated a conservative opponent at Sunday's by-election in the south Russian Krasnodar region, traditionally a stronghold of Marxist orthodoxy.

Aides of the former general said he received 55 per cent of the vote in a second round and his rival 44 per cent.

Kalugin resigned from the service early this year after a dispute with his superiors. He emerged as a hero of radical groups and the scourge of the orthodox establishment this summer, giving press interviews denouncing the KGB as locked in Stalinist ways.

He also incensed his former employers by revealing secrets about Soviet intelligence operations against the United States.

KGB head Vladimir Kryuchkov, in a rare public airing of the intelligence establishment's dirty linen, hit back publicly, describing Kalugin as an incompetent

whose failure had wrecked the cover of a key agent.

Kryuchkov told the recent Communist Party congress the KGB had fully embraced Gorbachev's perestroika reforms.

After being stripped of his rank and decorations amassed in 32 years of service, the KGB initiated legal proceedings against Kalugin on allegations that he betrayed state secrets.

"This victory, the support of the people, also gives Kalugin a great moral boost. It gives him a good civil protection against legal action," Kalugin's aide, Nikolai Panin, told Reuters by telephone from Krasnodar.

Deputies to the Supreme Soviet (parliament) enjoy immunity against prosecution.

New Zealand premier vows to stay on

WELLINGTON (R) — Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer said Monday he would not resign despite rumours his foreign minister would try to topple him this week, less than two months before a general election.

"I want to make it absolutely clear to every New Zealander that I am not quitting. I am staying where I am," he told Radio New Zealand.

"I am going to fight this election. It would certainly not be in my nature to leave a sinking ship..."

According to the rumours, External Relations and Trade Minister Mike Moore wants to snatch the Labour Party leadership to try to reverse the government's dismal opinion poll rating.

There has been no indication to me from any (member of parliament) that there is going to be a leadership challenge, none at all," said Palmer.

Labour trails the centre-right National Party by up to 35 per cent in the polls and faces oblivion in the Oct. 27 election unless a large number of undecided voters opt for the government at the last moment.

Political analyst Nigel Roberts said past rumours of a move against Palmer, accused by his critics of lacklustre leadership, had been spread by opponents testing their support.

"But I think the Labour Party is seriously considering the leadership now," he said.

Leadership issues are decided by the caucus (parliamentary party), which is due to meet Tuesday and Thursday.

One of Palmer's key allies, Finance Minister David Caygill, may also be wavering in his support for the 48-year-old leader.

"He feels a great sense of loyalty to the prime minister. He's a close personal friend," said one political source close to the finance minister.

When rumours of a leadership challenge surfaced last month Caygill said he would quit if Palmer went. But the source added: "I honestly don't know whether that situation still stands." This time Caygill had not committed himself.

Moore, who fought back into politics after a brush with cancer, refused to comment directly.

Asked if he would stand by previous pledges of loyalty to Palmer, Moore, 41, would only say: "I've always put New Zealand's interests first."

He has cancelled a trip to Europe due to start Tuesday.

Moore supporters say his great energy and appeal to ordinary people would win votes which Palmer, a former university law lecturer, has failed to do.

But Palmer does not accept election defeat as inevitable.

"The political situation is capable of being turned around... I want to turn it around and I am not going to be a party to quitting that effort," he said.

Palmer became Labour leader in August last year when Prime Minister David Lange resigned after months of interminable feuding which sent Labour's support diving. But after a brief honeymoon under Palmer, its fortunes slumped again.

Roberts advised against comparisons with Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke, who snatched the Labour leadership in 1983 and defeated the centre-right government of Malcolm Fraser just weeks later.

"(Labour) changed leaders in a position when they were on an upswing. That's very different from changing leaders when you're on a downswing," he said.

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Mohawk militants resist surrender to Canadian troops

Kahnawake, in a dispute over plans by Oka town officials to expand a golf course onto what they claim is tribal land.

The barriers had blocked traffic on an Oka highway and about 32 kilometres away, on a bridge connecting Montreal to southern suburbs.

On Sunday, the Warriors, a militant Mohawk organisation, periodically came out from the trees and stood face-to-face with soldiers at Oka. On one occasion, a Warrior approached a soldier, stood chest-to-chest with him and stared into his eyes as a group of reporters watched.

Finally, he let out a war whoop, turned and walked away. "I want to see their face before I kill them," the Warrior said.

The Mohawks fortified their positions by using a front-end loader to pile earth on a road near the two-story detoxification centre in the woods. Some crouched behind trees in wait for the army.

When asked whether the Warriors were prepared to shoot it out with the army, one militant said "definitely."

"This is it. We can't be pushed any further," he said.

However, no fighting broke out between the soldiers and Indians Sunday. Military helicopters flew overhead and about 80 armoured vehicles were in the area, the army said.

Mohawk spokesman Ellen Gabriel said the Indians are "pretty squeezed in right now. There's no way out really."

Last week, Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa ordered the army to dismantle the barricades. The army moved into the Kahnawake Mohawk settlement in Oka, 30 kilometres west of Montreal, Saturday afternoon after factional fighting broke out between moderate and militant Mohawks. Two Indians were hurt before the army moved in.

Barricades set up on the Kahnawake Mohawk Reservation near the Mercier Bridge, south of Montreal, have come down peacefully over the last few days. The Mercier blockade went up as a sympathy protest in support of the Oka Mohawks, and

angered residents of the south shore of the St. Lawrence River forced to make long detours to get to jobs in Montreal.

The uprising began when Oka officials decided to expand the local golf course onto land claimed by the Mohawks, including what they said were tribal burial grounds.

That problem was solved when the federal government purchased the land and said it would give it to the Indians. But the Mohawks seized the situation to publicise a much wider range of grievances, including demands for sovereignty, and their campaign sparked numerous brief sympathy blockades across Canada.

One week ago, provincial authorities gave the military the go-ahead to end the armed standoff that began on July 11 when the Quebec provincial police attempted to storm the Mohawk barricade at Oka.

One officer was killed in that assault, but it is still not clear by whose gunfire.

COLUMN

Rangers intensify fire watch at Robin Hood's hideout

NOTTINGHAM, England (AP) — Sherwood Forest rangers have intensified their fire watch at the Major Oak, the tree where legends say Robin Hood and his merry men hid out. Authorities say drought has turned parts of the forest tinder-dry, and fire patrols have been stepped up, especially at the 60-foot-tall (20-metre-tall) Major Oak. The tree, thought to be 600 to 800 years old, is a favourite tourist attraction at Sherwood Forest.

Soldier sent to Gulf leaves 3 children at home alone

CLARKSVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — A soldier accused of leaving his three children by themselves when he was deployed to the Middle East has been charged with misdemeanor child abuse, police said. Staff Sgt. Saaviki Savaki's two boys, aged 13 and 9, and their 12-year-old sister were found dirty and alone Wednesday at their home, police said. They were without food, and pets in the home were hungry. Savaki, a soldier with the 501st signal battalion based at nearby Fort Campbell, Kentucky, had been sent to Saudi Arabia the week before. "To me, it's just blatant neglect of the children," said Clarksville Police Sgt. Bill Poor, who is in charge of the civil investigation. Savaki was charged with three counts of child abuse, one for each of the children, Poor said. "There may be other charges filed," Poor said. The warrants will not be served until Savaki returns from Saudi Arabia, he said. On Thursday, Savaki flew from Saudi Arabia to American Samoa after learning his mother was gravely ill. Poor said the children's mother, Joyce Savaki, has been told of their plight, but cannot afford to buy a plane ticket from Hawaii to Clarksville. The mother has been living in Hawaii with her family since separating from her husband more than a month ago.

Japanese minister hospitalised

TOKYO (AP) — Justice Minister Shin Hasegawa collapsed Monday during a ceremony at the palace and is currently under treatment for a suspected stroke, officials said. Although he is conscious, his right arm and leg are paralysed, possibly as a result of a stroke, said Aki Takagi, a neurologist at Tokyo's Toranomon Hospital, where Hasegawa is being treated. Hasegawa, 71, was attending a ceremony at the imperial palace for the appointment of newly selected Supreme Court Justice Ryohi Kizaki, when he collapsed. Hasegawa collapsed after reporting briefly to Emperor Akihito about personnel affairs prior to the emperor's enthronement, according to a Justice Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity. Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamori hurried to the palace and took over Sakamoto's duties for the rest of the ceremony, the official said.

Tattooed youths banned from joining Chinese army

PEKING (AP) — Nearly three-quarters of the recruits from a single Chinese city were rejected by the army for having tattoos, an official report said Sunday. The Guangming daily said 574 youths were found to have tattoos during a recent military recruitment campaign in Chengde, a city just northeast of Peking. The report said about 80 per cent of them used cigarettes or joss sticks to make the tattoos of various designs, which the paper did not describe. It said the tattoos were commonly seen as a symbol of shared beliefs and unity among the younger generation. About 5 per cent had tattoos of the Chinese characters for "fortune," "longevity," "strength," "revenge," "unity" which their parents had given them as young children in hopes of bringing good luck to the family, the paper said. Others did it out of boredom or as a way to show off, imitating heroes portrayed in television shows or movies, the report added. The daily did not specify how many people were recruited during the campaign in Chengde. The Chinese army is struggling to maintain its image as the people's army since the military attack on the pro-democracy demonstrators in Peking in June 1989. By March of this year, about 5,100 young people from rural Peking have joined the army, an earlier report said. However, no nationwide figures were available.